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# PATRIOTIC IAS

## THE HINDU NEWSPAPER

### DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

14 AUGUST 2025

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14\_08\_2025 DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

TOPICS COVERED (PCS Special)

1. India's first private constellation of EO satellites under PPP model to be set up  
भारत का पहला निजी EO सैटेलाइट समूह PPP मॉडल के तहत स्थापित किया जाएगा
2. Centre gives approval for new veterinary college in Gujarat  
केंद्र ने गुजरात में नए पशु चिकित्सा कॉलेज के लिए मंजूरी दी

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### 3. Rohith Krishna is India's 89th GM रोहित कृष्णा भारत के 89वें ग्रैंडमास्टर हैं

## India's first private constellation of EO satellites under PPP model to be set up

PCS  
GS III: S&T

**The Hindu Bureau**  
BENGALURU

The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) on Tuesday announced the selection of the PixxelSpace India-led consortium to design, build, and operate India's first fully indigenous commercial earth observation (EO) satellite constellation under the public-private partnership (PPP) model.

The Bengaluru-based PixxelSpace India consortium comprises Piersight Space, Satsure Analytics India, and Dhruva Space. IN-SPACe said the PixxelSpace India consortium was selected in a competitive bidding process which



**New endeavour:** The initiative is said to reduce India's reliance on foreign sources and ensure data sovereignty. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

involved two more consortia.

It is for the first time in the history of the Indian space sector that a private consortium would invest more than ₹1,200 crore over the next five years to launch a constellation of 12

state-of-the-art EO satellites.

The constellation will deliver Analysis Ready Data (ARD) and Value-Added Services (VAS) for applications in climate change monitoring, disaster management, agriculture, ma-

rine surveillance, national security, and urban planning, while also catering to the global demand for high-quality geospatial intelligence.

IN-SPACe said that by generating high-resolution, indigenous satellite data, the initiative will significantly reduce India's reliance on foreign sources and ensure data sovereignty.

"This initiative signals the coming of age of India's private space industry in the space sector. It demonstrates the capability of Indian companies to lead large-scale, technologically advanced, and commercially viable space missions," Pawan Goenka, chairman, IN-SPACe, said.

**India's first private constellation of EO satellites under PPP model to be set up**

**भारत का पहला निजी EO सैटेलाइट समूह PPP मॉडल के तहत स्थापित किया जाएगा**

**The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) on Tuesday announced the selection of the PixxelSpace India-led consortium to design, build, and operate India's first fully indigenous commercial earth observation (EO) satellite constellation under the public-private partnership (PPP) model.**

भारतीय राष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष संवर्धन और प्राधिकरण केंद्र (IN-SPACe) ने मंगलवार को PixelSpace India-निर्देशित कंसोर्टियम के चयन की घोषणा की, जो भारत का पहला पूरी तरह स्वदेशी वाणिज्यिक पृथ्वी अवलोकन (EO) सैटेलाइट समूह डिजाइन, निर्माण और संचालन करेगा, यह सार्वजनिक-निजी साझेदारी (PPP मॉडल) के तहत होगा।

- The Bengaluru-based PixxelSpace India consortium comprises Piersight Space, Satsure Analytics India, and Dhruva Space.

बैंगलुरु स्थित PixelSpace India कंसोर्टियम में Piersight Space, Satsure Analytics India, और Dhruva Space शामिल हैं।

- IN-SPACe said the PixxelSpace India consortium was selected in a competitive bidding process which involved two more consortia.

IN-SPACe ने कहा कि PixelSpace India कंसोर्टियम को प्रतिस्पर्धी बोली प्रक्रिया में चुना गया, जिसमें दो अन्य कंसोर्टियम भी शामिल थे।

- It is for the first time in the history of the Indian space sector that a private consortium would invest more than ₹1,200 crore over the next five years to launch a constellation of 12 state-of-the-art EO satellites.



यह भारतीय अंतरिक्ष क्षेत्र के इतिहास में पहली बार है कि एक निजी कंसोर्टियम अगले पाँच वर्षों में ₹1,200 करोड़ से अधिक निवेश करेगा और 12 अत्याधुनिक EO सैटेलाइट्स का समूह लॉन्च करेगा।

- The constellation will deliver **Analysis Ready Data (ARD)** and **Value-Added Services (VAS)** for applications in **climate change monitoring, disaster management, agriculture, marine surveillance, national security, and urban planning**, while also catering to the **global demand for high-quality geospatial intelligence**.

यह सैटेलाइट समूह **Analysis Ready Data (ARD)** और **Value-Added Services (VAS)** प्रदान करेगा, जिसका उपयोग **जलवायु परिवर्तन निगरानी, आपदा प्रबंधन, कृषि, समुद्री निगरानी, राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा, और शहरी नियोजन** में किया जाएगा, साथ ही यह उच्च गुणवत्ता वाली **भू-स्थानिक जानकारी** की वैश्विक मांग को भी पूरा करेगा।

- IN-SPACe said that by generating **high-resolution, indigenous satellite data**, the initiative will significantly reduce India's reliance on **foreign sources** and ensure **data sovereignty**.

IN-SPACe ने कहा कि **उच्च-रिज़ॉल्यूशन, स्वदेशी सैटेलाइट डेटा** उत्पन्न करके, यह पहल **भारत की विदेशी स्रोतों पर निर्भरता** को काफी हद तक कम करेगी और **डेटा संप्रभुता** सुनिश्चित करेगी।

- "This initiative signals the **coming of age of India's private space industry** in the space sector. It demonstrates the capability of **Indian companies to lead large-scale, technologically advanced, and commercially viable space missions**," **Pawan Goenka, chairman, IN-SPACe**, said.

**पवन गोयनका, अध्यक्ष, IN-SPACe** ने कहा, "यह पहल अंतरिक्ष क्षेत्र में **भारत के निजी अंतरिक्ष उद्योग के परिपक्व होने** का संकेत देती है। यह दिखाती है कि **भारतीय कंपनियां बड़े पैमाने पर, तकनीकी रूप से उन्नत और वाणिज्यिक रूप से व्यवहार्य अंतरिक्ष मिशनों** का नेतृत्व करने में सक्षम हैं।"

## Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)

- The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) is a single-window autonomous agency under the **Department of Space**, Government of India.
- It was announced in June 2020 by the Minister of State for Space, Jitendra Singh, with approval from the Union Cabinet.
- To operationalize it, the Department of Space continued running its functions until it became fully functional later that year.
- **Its core mandate is to serve as an independent interface between ISRO and private sector entities, enabling the latter to participate effectively in the space ecosystem.**

### Primary Functions of IN-SPACe

- Acts as a facilitator, assessing how best to utilize India's space resources and expand space-based activities.
- Evaluates the needs of private companies—including educational institutions and startups—and coordinates with ISRO to align capabilities and objectives.
- Decisions taken by IN-SPACe are binding on both ISRO and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
- This framework shifts ISRO's role toward focused research and development, while IN-SPACe drives commercial outreach and regulation.



## Ground Station as a Service (GSaaS)

- IN-SPACe is developing a model called Ground Station as a Service (GSaaS), allowing private companies to use ISRO-owned ground infrastructure on a subscription or pay-per-use basis.
- This ensures more efficient and cost-effective access to ground facilities.
- Dhruva Space was authorized in July 2024 to provide GSaaS using six ground stations in the VHF/UHF bands and two in S or X bands.
- Azista BST Aerospace also received IN-SPACe approval to set up a UHF-band ground station to support domestic and international clients in remote-sensing operations.

## Technology Adoption Fund (TAF)

- In February 2025, IN-SPACe launched a ₹500 crore Technology Adoption Fund to assist startups and MSMEs in developing commercially viable space technologies.
- The fund aims to reduce reliance on imports and promote indigenous innovation.
- Support model:
  - Up to 60% funding for startups and MSMEs.
  - Up to 40% for larger industries.
  - Maximum cap of ₹25 crore per project.
- Objective: Bridge the gap between early-stage technology (TRL-3/4) and near-market readiness (TRL-8/9), while encouraging intellectual property creation and ownership by NGEs.

## Satellite Bus as a Service (SBaaS)

- Launched in April 2025, SBaaS enables Indian private entities to design and develop modular small satellite bus platforms for hosted payload applications.
- Two-phase approach:
  - Phase I** – Shortlist up to four NGEs to develop multi-mission modular bus systems.
  - Phase II** – Support up to two hosted-payload missions to validate these platforms in orbit.
- Aim: Democratize access to satellite bus technology, reduce dependence on foreign platforms, and make India a competitive global provider of small satellite solutions.

## Organizational Leadership and Structure

- IN-SPACe is an autonomous body under the Department of Space with its own governing Board, comprising government representatives and industry experts.
- **Chairman:** Dr. Pawan Kumar Goenka.
- **Directorates:**
  - **Promotion Directorate** – Promotes space sector engagement.
  - **Technical Directorate** – Assesses and guides technical feasibility of NGE initiatives.
  - **Program Management & Authorization Directorate** – Oversees program execution and regulatory approvals.



## Centre gives approval for new veterinary college in Gujarat

PCS

The Union government has approved the establishment of Kamdhenu Veterinary College at Himatnagar in Gujarat under Kamdhenu University. The institution will offer 80 seats in Bachelor of Veterinary Science (B.V.Sc.) and Animal Husbandry programmes, with admissions for the 2025-26 academic year set to begin next month through NEET scores. The spacious Himatnagar facility spread over 23 acres will be Gujarat's fifth veterinary college joining the ranks of institutions in Anand, Navsari, Junagadh, and Dantiwada. The proposal, submitted by the State government, received approval from the Veterinary Council of India (VCI) after a detailed inspection earlier this year.

## Centre gives approval for new veterinary college in Gujarat केंद्र ने गुजरात में नए पशु चिकित्सा कॉलेज के लिए मंजूरी दी

The Union government has approved the establishment of **Kamdhenu Veterinary College at Himatnagar** in Gujarat under Kamdhenu University.

केंद्र सरकार ने कांधेनु विश्वविद्यालय के अंतर्गत गुजरात के हिमतनगर में कांधेनु पशु चिकित्सा कॉलेज की स्थापना के लिए मंजूरी दे दी है।

- The institution will offer **80 seats** in Bachelor of Veterinary Science (B.V.Sc.) and Animal

Husbandry programmes, with admissions for the **2025-26 academic year** set to begin next month through **NEET scores**.

यह संस्थान बैचलर ऑफ़ वेटेरिनरी साइंस (B.V.Sc.) और पशुपालन कार्यक्रमों में 80 सीटें प्रदान करेगा, और 2025-26 शैक्षणिक वर्ष के लिए प्रवेश अगले महीने NEET अंकों के माध्यम से शुरू होंगे।

- The spacious Himatnagar facility spread over **23 acres** will be **Gujarat's fifth veterinary college**, joining the ranks of institutions in **Anand, Navsari, Junagadh, and Dantiwada**.

विस्तृत हिमतनगर सुविधा, जो 23 एकड़ में फैली हुई है, गुजरात का पांचवां पशु चिकित्सा कॉलेज होगा, जो आनंद, नवसारी, जूनागढ़ और डांटीवाड़ा के संस्थानों में शामिल होगा।

- The proposal, submitted by the **State government**, received approval from the **Veterinary Council of India (VCI)** after a **detailed inspection** earlier this year.

राज्य सरकार द्वारा प्रस्तुत प्रस्ताव को इस वर्ष की विस्तृत जांच के बाद भारतीय पशु चिकित्सा परिषद (VCI) से मंजूरी प्राप्त हुई।



## Rohith Krishna is India's 89th GM

PCS

**K. Keerthivasan**  
CHENNAI

Rohith Krishna S. has always been good in academics. He, however, felt the pursuit of excellence in education slowed down his quest to become a chess Grandmaster. Yet, he kept his focus and, on Tuesday, became the 89th Indian GM. He did that with a win over IM Artur Davtyan of Romania in the final round of the Almaty Masters Qonaev Cup in Kazakhstan to secure six points out of nine.

The 19-year-old, a third-year engineering student in Chennai, knows that his journey has just begun.

Speaking to *The Hindu* from Dubai, Rohith, who will be taking part in the Abu Dhabi International tournament beginning on August 15, said: "Finally achieved the dream of becoming a Grandmaster — one I have pursued since 2013 — has brought me immense relief and joy.

"I will always remember my friends, family, and mentors who stood by me in difficult times, encouraging me to never give up. This is not the end — it is just the beginning of a longer journey ahead."

Rohith acknowledged the support of his school and college (Sunshine, Velachery, and SSN) — that made the path to becoming a GM relatively smooth.

"At times, I felt the pressure of not achieving the Grandmaster title as quickly as I expected since ba-



Rohith Krishna.

lancing academics and chess was never easy. However, the support of The Sunshine School and SSN College kept me motivated to excel in both," he said, thanking the Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu for its financial assistance.

K. Visweswaran, head coach of Kameswaran Chess Academy, Chennai, who has been training Rohith since 2019, said his ward wanted to achieve excellence in both academics and chess, and it was a conscious decision.

"He invested two years for school (Std. XI and XII) and one year in college (SSN) to get accustomed to the environment. Rohith looks at life holistically," he said.

"Rohith is a diligent and patient player. He is tactically sharp and quick to capitalise on the opponent's mistakes. Now with the GM pressure off his back, he can go for tournament wins," he added.

था, वह ग्रैंडमास्टर बनने का सपना पूरा हुआ — इससे मुझे बहुत राहत और खुशी मिली है।"

- "I will always remember my friends, family, and mentors who stood by me in difficult times, encouraging me to never give up. This is not the end — it is just the beginning of a longer journey ahead."

"मैं हमेशा अपने दोस्तों, परिवार और मेंटर्स को याद रखूंगा जिन्होंने कठिन समय में मेरा साथ दिया और मुझे कभी हार न मानने के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया। यह अंत नहीं है — यह आगे की लंबी यात्रा की बस शुरुआत है।"

- Rohith acknowledged the support of his school and college (**Sunshine, Velachery, and SSN**) — that made the path to becoming a GM relatively smooth.

## Rohith Krishna is India's 89th GM

### रोहित कृष्णा भारत के 89वें ग्रैंडमास्टर हैं

• Rohith Krishna S. has always been good in academics. He, however, felt the pursuit of excellence in education slowed down his quest to become a **chess Grandmaster**. Yet, he kept his focus and, on Tuesday, became the 89th Indian GM.

रोहित कृष्णा एस. हमेशा से पढ़ाई में अच्छे रहे हैं। हालांकि, उन्हें लगा कि शिक्षा में उत्कृष्टता की खोज ने उनके चेस ग्रैंडमास्टर बनने की कोशिश को धीमा कर दिया। फिर भी, उन्होंने अपना ध्यान बनाए रखा और मंगलवार को वे भारत के 89वें ग्रैंडमास्टर बने।

• He did that with a win over **IM Artur Davtyan of Romania** in the final round of the **Almaty Masters Qonaev Cup in Kazakhstan** to secure **six points out of nine**.

उन्होंने यह उपलब्धि **कजाखस्तान** में हुए **अल्माटी मास्टर्स क़ोनाएव कप** के अंतिम राउंड में **रोमानिया** के **आईएम आर्टुर डेवत्यन** को हराकर नौ में से छह अंक हासिल करके पाई।

• The **19-year-old**, a third-year engineering student in **Chennai**, knows that his journey has just begun.

**19 वर्षीय, चेन्नई** में तृतीय वर्ष के इंजीनियरिंग छात्र, जानते हैं कि उनकी यात्रा अभी बस शुरू हुई है।

• Speaking to *The Hindu* from **Dubai**, Rohith, who will be taking part in the **Abu Dhabi International tournament** beginning on **August 15**, said: "Finally achieved the dream of becoming a Grandmaster — one I have pursued since **2013** — has brought me immense relief and joy.

**दुबई** से **द हिंदू** को बताते हुए रोहित, जो **15 अगस्त** से शुरू हो रहे **अबू धाबी इंटरनेशनल टूर्नामेंट** में हिस्सा लेंगे, ने कहा: "आखिरकार **2013** से जिसे पाने का सपना देख रहा



रोहित ने अपने स्कूल और कॉलेज (सनशाइन, वेलाचेरी और एसएसएन) के सहयोग को स्वीकार किया — जिसने जीएम बनने का रास्ता अपेक्षाकृत आसान बना दिया।

- "At times, I felt the pressure of not achieving the Grandmaster title as quickly as I expected since balancing academics and chess was never easy. However, the support of The Sunshine School and SSN College kept me motivated to excel in both," he said, thanking the **Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu** for its financial assistance.  
"कभी-कभी मुझे जल्दी ग्रैंडमास्टर न बन पाने का दबाव महसूस होता था क्योंकि पढ़ाई और चेस में संतुलन बनाना आसान नहीं था। लेकिन **सनशाइन स्कूल** और **एसएसएन कॉलेज** के सहयोग ने मुझे दोनों में उत्कृष्टता हासिल करने के लिए प्रेरित किया," उन्होंने कहा और **तमिलनाडु खेल विकास प्राधिकरण** को उसकी वित्तीय सहायता के लिए धन्यवाद दिया।
- **K. Visweswaran**, head coach of **Kameswaran Chess Academy, Chennai**, who has been training Rohith since **2019**, said his ward wanted to achieve excellence in both academics and chess, and it was a conscious decision.  
**के. विश्वेश्वरन, कामेश्वरन चेस अकादमी, चेन्नई** के मुख्य कोच, जो **2019** से रोहित को प्रशिक्षण दे रहे हैं, ने कहा कि उनका शिष्य पढ़ाई और चेस दोनों में उत्कृष्टता हासिल करना चाहता था, और यह एक सोच-समझकर लिया गया निर्णय था।
- "He invested two years for school (**Std. XI and XII**) and one year in college (**SSN**) to get accustomed to the environment. Rohith looks at life holistically," he said.  
"उन्होंने माहौल में ढलने के लिए स्कूल (**कक्षा 11 और 12**) में दो साल और कॉलेज (**एसएसएन**) में एक साल का समय दिया। रोहित जीवन को समग्र दृष्टिकोण से देखते हैं," उन्होंने कहा।
- "Rohith is a diligent and patient player. He is tactically sharp and quick to capitalise on the opponent's mistakes. Now with the GM pressure off his back, he can go for tournament wins," he added.  
"रोहित मेहनती और धैर्यवान खिलाड़ी हैं। वह रणनीतिक रूप से तेज हैं और प्रतिद्वंद्वी की गलतियों का जल्दी फायदा उठाते हैं। अब जब **जीएम** का दबाव उनके ऊपर से हट गया है, तो वह टूर्नामेंट जीतने के लिए जा सकते हैं," उन्होंने जोड़ा।

## TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper I: History, Society and Geography)

### 1. Chhattisgarh govt. cuts thousands of forest rights titles

छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार ने हजारों वन अधिकार शीर्षक काटे

### 2. Expansion of SC/ST Scholarships

एससी/एसटी छात्रवृत्ति का विस्तार

### 3. Military Biographies: A Matter of Heroes and Overlapping History

सैन्य जीवनी: नायकों और ओवरलैपिंग इतिहास का मामला

### 4. Jihadist fighters leave Burkina Faso cotton farmers hanging by a thread



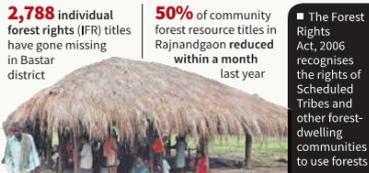
# जिहादी लड़ाके बुर्किना फासो के कपास किसानों को संकट में छोड़ रहे हैं

## Chhattisgarh govt. cuts thousands of forest rights titles

GS I Society

### Lost rights

Several individual forest rights titles distributed in at least three districts in Chhattisgarh have 'disappeared'



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Thousands of forest rights titles distributed across at least three districts in Chhattisgarh seem to have disappeared from the records of the State government's Tribal Welfare Department at various points over the last 17 months, according to documents accessed by *The Hindu* through the Right to Information Act.

State government officials claimed that the earlier, higher figures were faulty, due to "miscommunication and error in reporting", which has now been corrected.

The data, which was provided in response to an RTI query by *The Hindu*, showed that as of May, a total of 4.82 lakh IFR titles and 4,396 CFRR titles had been distributed across 30 districts of the State.

In Bastar district, for instance, the total number of individual forest rights (IFR) titles as of January 2024 was 37,958, which fell to 35,180 by May 2025, according to the data. In Rajnandgaon district, similarly, the total number of community forest resource rights (CFRR) titles halved within a month last year, from 40 to 20. In Bijapur district, there were 299 CFRR titles distributed till March 2024; by the following month, this was reduced to 297.

These reductions can be seen in the State's district-wise monthly progress reports on the FRA, sought under RTI. The Centre's publicly available FRA pro-

gress reports only record data at the State level. Some FRA researchers and experts have termed such a decrease as an "anomaly", as there is no process under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 to withdraw titles which have been granted.

The Act recognises and vests rights to use forests to Scheduled Tribe and other forest-dwelling communities. It allows individuals and communities to get various types of titles over forest areas which they live on, use for their livelihoods, or collect produce from.

### Reporting error

Responding to questions on the decrease in forest rights titles in some districts, a senior State government official claimed this was because of "miscommunication" between officials working at the gram sabha, sub-divisional, and district levels that had resulted in the need for "correction" of the records. "It may be seen as a reporting error," the official said.

State officials said that the FRA is not implemented in Raipur, Durg, and Bemetara districts. Central government data on the FRA shows that, as of May 2025, Chhattisgarh accounts for over 43% of the forest area over which FRA titles have been granted.

In the three districts declared free of Naxalism by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs over the last year, FRA implementation has been slow, this data shows.

## Chhattisgarh govt. cuts thousands of forest rights titles

### छत्तीसगढ़ सरकार ने हजारों वन अधिकार शीर्षक काटे

• Thousands of forest rights titles distributed across at least three districts in Chhattisgarh seem to have disappeared from the records of the State government's Tribal Welfare Department at various points over the last 17 months, according to documents accessed by *The Hindu* through the **Right to Information Act**.

छत्तीसगढ़ के कम से कम तीन जिलों में वितरित हजारों वन अधिकार शीर्षक पिछले 17 महीनों में राज्य सरकार के जनजातीय कल्याण विभाग के रिकॉर्ड से गायब दिखाई देते हैं, यह जानकारी *The Hindu* ने सूचना के अधिकार अधिनियम के माध्यम से प्राप्त दस्तावेजों के अनुसार मिली।

• State government officials claimed that the **earlier, higher figures were faulty, due to "miscommunication and error in reporting"**, which has now been corrected.

राज्य सरकार के अधिकारियों ने दावा किया कि पहले के अधिक आंकड़े गलत थे, जिसका कारण "सूचना में गलतफहमी और रिपोर्टिंग में त्रुटि" था, जिसे अब सुधारा गया है।

• The data, which was provided in response to an RTI query by *The Hindu*, showed that **as of May, a total of 4.82 lakh IFR titles and 4,396 CFRR titles** had been distributed across 30 districts of the State.

• *The Hindu* द्वारा किए गए RTI प्रश्न के जवाब में प्रदान किए गए डेटा से पता चला कि **मई तक**, राज्य के 30 जिलों में कुल 4.82 लाख IFR शीर्षक और 4,396 CFRR शीर्षक वितरित किए जा चुके थे।

• In Bastar district, the total number of **individual forest rights (IFR) titles** as of January 2024 was 37,958, which fell to 35,180 by May 2025, according to the data.

बस्तर जिले में, जनवरी 2024 तक कुल व्यक्तिगत वन अधिकार (IFR) शीर्षक की संख्या 37,958 थी, जो **मई 2025 तक 35,180** हो गई।

• In Rajnandgaon district, similarly, the total number of **community forest resource rights (CFRR) titles** halved within a month last year, from 40 to 20.

राजनांदगांव जिले में भी, पिछले साल एक महीने के भीतर सामुदायिक वन संसाधन अधिकार (CFRR) शीर्षक की संख्या आधी हो गई, 40 से 20 हो गई।



- In **Bijapur district**, there were **299 CFRR titles** distributed till **March 2024**; by the following month, this was reduced to **297**.  
बीजापुर जिले में, मार्च 2024 तक 299 CFRR शीर्षक वितरित किए गए थे; अगले महीने यह घटकर 297 हो गया।
- These reductions can be seen in the State's **district-wise monthly progress reports** on the **FRA**, sought under **RTI**. The Centre's publicly available **FRA progress reports** only record data at the **State level**.  
ये कतौती राज्य के **जिला-वार मासिक प्रगति रिपोर्ट** में देखी जा सकती हैं, जो **RTI** के तहत मांगी गई थीं। केंद्र सरकार की सार्वजनिक रूप से उपलब्ध **FRA प्रगति रिपोर्ट** केवल **राज्य स्तर** का डेटा दर्ज करती है।
- Some **FRA researchers and experts** have termed such a decrease as an **"anomaly"**, as **there is no process under the Forest Rights Act, 2006 to withdraw titles which have been granted**.  
कुछ **FRA शोधकर्ताओं और विशेषज्ञों** ने इस तरह की कमी को **"असामान्य"** कहा है, क्योंकि **Forest Rights Act, 2006** के तहत दिए गए शीर्षकों को वापस लेने की कोई प्रक्रिया नहीं है।
- The **Act recognises and vests rights to use forests to Scheduled Tribe and other forest-dwelling communities**. It allows individuals and communities to get various types of titles over forest areas which they live on, use for their livelihoods, or collect produce from.  
इस अधिनियम के तहत **अनुसूचित जनजातियों** और अन्य **वनवासियों** को **वन उपयोग के अधिकार** दिए गए हैं। यह व्यक्तियों और समुदायों को उनके निवास, आजीविका या वन उत्पाद संग्रह के लिए वन क्षेत्रों पर विभिन्न प्रकार के **शीर्षक** प्राप्त करने की अनुमति देता है।

### Reporting error रिपोर्टिंग त्रुटि

- Responding to questions on the decrease in **forest rights titles** in some districts, a senior **State government official** claimed this was because of **"miscommunication"** between officials working at the **gram sabha, sub-divisional, and district levels** that had resulted in the need for **"correction"** of the records.  
कुछ जिलों में **वन अधिकार शीर्षकों** में कमी के सवाल का जवाब देते हुए, एक वरिष्ठ **राज्य सरकार अधिकारी** ने कहा कि यह **ग्राम सभा, उप-खंड और जिला स्तर** पर काम कर रहे अधिकारियों के बीच **"सूचना में गलतफहमी"** के कारण हुआ, जिससे रिकॉर्ड में **"सुधार"** की आवश्यकता पड़ी।
- "It may be seen as a **reporting error**," the official said.  
अधिकारी ने कहा, "यह एक **रिपोर्टिंग त्रुटि** के रूप में देखा जा सकता है।"
- State officials said that the **FRA** is not implemented in **Raipur, Durg, and Bemetara districts**. Central government data on the **FRA** shows that, as of **May 2025**, **Chhattisgarh accounts for over 43% of the forest area over which FRA titles have been granted**.  
राज्य अधिकारियों ने कहा कि **FRA** को **रायपुर, दुर्ग और बेमेतरा जिलों** में लागू नहीं किया गया है। **FRA** पर केंद्र सरकार के डेटा के अनुसार, **मई 2025** तक, **छत्तीसगढ़** उन वन क्षेत्रों का **43% से अधिक** हिस्सा है, जिन पर **FRA शीर्षक** दिए गए हैं।
- In the three districts declared free of **Naxalism** by the **Union Ministry of Home Affairs** over the last year, **FRA implementation** has been slow, this data shows.  
पिछले साल **केंद्र गृह मंत्रालय** द्वारा **नक्सलवाद मुक्त** घोषित किए गए तीन जिलों में, **FRA का क्रियान्वयन** धीमा रहा है, यह डेटा दिखाता है।



## Forest Rights Act, 2006

Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 recognizes and vests forest rights and occupation rights in Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD).

### Features of Forest Rights Act, 2006

Identifies four types of rights:

**Individual Rights** - for a maximum of 4 hectares only for the land already being cultivated.

**Community Rights** - to extract Minor Forest Produce (MFP), grazing areas, pastoralist rights.

**Relief and Development Rights** - in case of forced displacement or illegal eviction.

**Forest Management Rights**

Who can claim these rights?

Forest Dwelling Scheduled Tribes (FDST) and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD)

Any member who has at least 3 generations (or 75 years) prior to 13th December 2005 and primarily resided in these lands for bonafide livelihood needs.

**Gram Sabha's Authority:** Gram Sabha has the authority to initiate the process for recognizing the nature and extent of individual or community forest rights.

Three-tier structure:

Gram Sabha

DM Committee

District level Committee

The free and informed consent of Gram Sabha is required in case of notifying National Parks (NP) and Wildlife Sanctuaries (WLS).

### Issues with implementation

#### Gaps at the policy level

- Confusion over terms such as "primarily resides in," "bonafide livelihood."
- Lack of clarity, especially over the position of Primitive Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).
- Conflict: Confusion due to Forest Conservation Rules (FCR) 2002 which don't require the collector to obtain the consent of Gram Sabha before preliminary approval.
- Divergence of land for infrastructure creation: Status of Forest Report by Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science, Environment & Forests – 2400 sq. km diverted under Forest Conservation Act, 1980



<p><b>Gaps in implementation</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pendency: According to a report by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA), only 40% claims were recognized.</li> <li>● Forest Department's Resistance: To recognize Community Forest Rights (CFR), Eg, In Sarguja district 27 CFR titles were claimed and conferred, but not recognized by the Forest Department (FD)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Grounds of claim rejection</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Wrong interpretation of OTFD definition and dependence clause.</li> <li>● Lack of evidence, GPS surveys, absence of proof.</li> <li>● Claims on grounds where land is disputed, Eg, Chhattisgarh: "orange areas" are disputed between revenue and forest departments. (SCSTRTI Report, 2013)</li> <li>● Need for forest rights sensitization (SC/ST/OBC).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Violation of clauses</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No eviction until the process of recognition and verification of rights is complete. Eg, In Thane, evictions without due process.</li> <li>● Serious flaws in the constitution of Forest Rights Committees in many states</li> </ul>

Adequate implementation of the act requires sensitization on the part of the authorities concerned. Recently, a joint communication by MoEF and MoTA was sent to all state governments for the expedited implementation of the act.



# How can SC/ST scholarships be expanded

What is the current parental income limit for students who come from marginalised communities availing of pre-matric and post-matric scholarships? What did the Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of OBCs recommend? What is the eligibility criteria of these scholarships?

GS Paper I: Society

## EXPLAINER

Abhinav Lakshman

### The story so far:

**A**head of the upcoming financial cycle spanning FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31, the Union government is considering revising the parental income limit for eligibility in availing post and pre-matric scholarships administered to students from marginalised castes and tribes.

### What will be the new limit?

These scholarships require eligible candidates to have parental annual income below ₹2.5 lakh. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is looking to raise parental income limit to ₹4.5 lakh for post and pre-matric ST scholarships, and the Social Justice Ministry is discussing revising the limits for post and pre-matric scholarships for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Other Backward Castes (OBCs), and Denotified Tribes (DNTs). In addition, discussions are also on to raise the parental income limit of college and school scholarships for OBCs, and DNTs.

### What are these scholarships?

The post and pre-matric scholarships for SCs, Scheduled Tribes (STs), and OBCs, are run as central sponsored schemes by the government. This means that it is funded by both the Union and State governments on a 60:40 ratio (Union:States), except for in northeast States where the ratio is 90:10.

The post-matric scholarships for SCs, STs, and OBCs, require the student to be an Indian national, studying at the post-matric stage, that is, after 10th grade. Pre-matric scholarships are mostly available to students of grades IX and X, but for SCs pre-matric scholarships are available from grades 1 to X, if their parent or guardian is involved in a "unclean or hazardous" occupation. Both post and pre-matric scholarships require students' annual parental income to be below ₹2.5



**Big dreams:** Students in a class of a Gond school in Gadchiroli, Maharashtra in March. EMMANUEL YOGINI

lakh to become eligible.

In the ongoing fiscal year's budget estimates, centrally sponsored scholarship schemes for SCs, OBCs, Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs), and DNTs accounted for 66.7% of the Social Justice Department's ₹13,611 crore allocation.

In the Tribal Affairs Ministry, centrally sponsored scholarship schemes for ST students accounted for about 18.6% of the department's ₹4,925.81 crore allocation for FY 2025-26.

**How many avail of the scholarships?** According to available government data,

tabled in Parliament and submitted before House panels, the number of beneficiaries for post and pre-matric scholarships across socio-economic groups has been falling. This showed that from 2020-21 to 2024-25, there was a 30.63% drop in the number of beneficiaries for pre-matric scholarships for SCs. In the same time period, beneficiaries for SC post-matric scholarships dropped by 4.22%, according to data tabled in Parliament this week.

Data from earlier this year further showed that for pre-matric scholarships for OBCs, EBCs, and DNTs, the

beneficiaries dropped from 58.62 lakh in 2021-22 to a little over 20.25 lakh in 2023-24. A similar drop was seen in post-matric scholarships for these sections in the same time period, reducing from 43.34 lakh beneficiaries to 38.42 lakh. For STs, there was a drop of 4.63 lakh beneficiaries in this time period for pre-matric scholarships, and a drop of 3.52 lakh beneficiaries for post-matric scholarships.

### What have House panels said about these scholarships as well as eligibility criteria?

In a report on schemes for OBCs run by the Social Justice Ministry, the Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of OBCs earlier this year recommended a "suitable rise" in the income limit from ₹2.5 lakh that is currently set for scholarships for OBC students. While the panel asked the government to double the income limit for beneficiaries of pre and post-matric scholarships for OBCs, it has asked for "suitable rise" in the income limits for beneficiaries of top-class scholarships for school and college education.

The panel also said it was puzzling why the pre-matric scholarship for OBCs was only being offered for Class IX and X, recommending that the scholarship start covering students from Class V onwards.

A separate House panel, which was set up to oversee the working of the Tribal Affairs and Social Justice ministries this March, noted the same about post and pre-matric scholarships for ST students, recommending that the parental income limits be revised for these schemes.

These House panels have stressed the importance of these scholarships, and observed that the existing parental income limit was too low, adding that this was preventing many families who need the scholarships from getting access to it. They have suggested that the parental income limit be raised for these scholarships so that the coverage can be extended to as many beneficiaries that need it.

## THE GIST

The Ministry of Tribal Affairs is looking to raise parental income limit to ₹4.5 lakh for post and pre-matric ST scholarships.

Data from earlier this year further showed that for pre-matric scholarships for OBCs, EBCs, and DNTs, the beneficiaries dropped from 58.62 lakh in 2021-22 to a little over 20.25 lakh in 2023-24.

House panels have stressed the importance of these scholarships, and observed that the existing parental income limit was too low.

## Expansion of SC/ST Scholarships

### एससी/एसटी छात्रवृत्ति का विस्तार

## Revision of Parental Income Limit for Scholarships

### छात्रवृत्ति के लिए माता-पिता की आय सीमा में संशोधन

- Ahead of the upcoming financial cycle spanning FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31, the **Union government** is considering revising the **parental income limit** for eligibility in availing **post and pre-matric scholarships** administered to students from **marginalised castes and tribes**.

आगामी वित्तीय चक्र FY 2026-27 से FY 2030-31 तक शुरू होने से पहले, केंद्र सरकार मापदंड आय सीमा में संशोधन पर विचार कर रही है, ताकि हाशिए पर रहने वाले जातियों और जनजातियों के छात्रों के लिए पोस्ट और प्री-मैट्रिक छात्रवृत्तियों का लाभ सुनिश्चित किया जा सके।

- These scholarships require eligible candidates to have **parental annual income below ₹2.5 lakh**.

इन छात्रवृत्तियों के लिए योग्य उम्मीदवारों के माता-पिता की वार्षिक आय ₹2.5 लाख से कम होनी चाहिए।

- The **Ministry of Tribal Affairs** is looking to raise parental income limit to **₹4.5 lakh** for **post and pre-matric ST scholarships**, and the **Social Justice Ministry** is discussing revising the limits for **post and pre-matric scholarships for SCs, OBCs, and Denotified Tribes (DNTs)**.

जनजातीय मामलों के मंत्रालय पोस्ट और प्री-मैट्रिक ST छात्रवृत्तियों के लिए माता-पिता की आय सीमा को ₹4.5 लाख तक बढ़ाने पर विचार कर रहा है, और सामाजिक न्याय मंत्रालय SC, OBC,



और DNT छात्रों के पोस्ट और प्री-मैट्रिक छात्रवृत्तियों की आय सीमा में संशोधन पर चर्चा कर रहा है।

- In addition, discussions are also on to raise the **parental income limit of college and school scholarships** for **OBCs and DNTs**.  
इसके अलावा, **OBC और DNT छात्रों के कॉलेज और स्कूल छात्रवृत्तियों** के लिए माता-पिता की आय सीमा बढ़ाने पर भी चर्चा चल रही है।

### About These Scholarships

#### इन छात्रवृत्तियों के बारे में

- The **post and pre-matric scholarships** for **SCs, STs, and OBCs** are run as **centrally sponsored schemes** by the government.  
**SC, ST, और OBC छात्रों के पोस्ट और प्री-मैट्रिक छात्रवृत्तियां** सरकार द्वारा **केंद्र प्रायोजित योजनाओं** के रूप में चलायी जाती हैं।
- This means that it is **funded by both the Union and State governments on a 60:40 ratio (Union:States)**, except for in **northeast States** where the ratio is **90:10**.  
इसका मतलब है कि इसे **केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों** द्वारा **60:40 अनुपात** (केंद्र:राज्य) में वित्तपोषित किया जाता है, सिवाय **पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों** के जहाँ यह अनुपात **90:10** है।
- The **post-matric scholarships** for **SCs, STs, and OBCs** require the student to be an **Indian national, studying at the post-matric stage, that is, after 10th grade**.  
**SC, ST, और OBC छात्रों के पोस्ट-मैट्रिक छात्रवृत्तियों** के लिए छात्र **भारतीय नागरिक** होना चाहिए, और **पोस्ट-मैट्रिक स्तर** पर पढ़ाई कर रहा होना चाहिए, यानी **10वीं कक्षा के बाद**।
- **Pre-matric scholarships** are mostly available to students of **grades IX and X**, but for **SCs** pre-matric scholarships are available from **grades 1 to X**, if their parent or guardian is involved in a **“unclean or hazardous” occupation**.  
**प्री-मैट्रिक छात्रवृत्तियां** मुख्य रूप से **9वीं और 10वीं कक्षा** के छात्रों के लिए उपलब्ध हैं, लेकिन **SC** छात्रों के लिए प्री-मैट्रिक छात्रवृत्तियां **1 से 10वीं कक्षा तक** उपलब्ध हैं, यदि उनके माता-पिता या अभिभावक किसी **“अस्वच्छ या खतरनाक” व्यवसाय** में लगे हैं।
- Both post and pre-matric scholarships require students' **annual parental income to be below ₹2.5 lakh** to become eligible.  
दोनों पोस्ट और प्री-मैट्रिक छात्रवृत्तियों के लिए छात्रों के **माता-पिता की वार्षिक आय ₹2.5 लाख से कम** होनी चाहिए।
- In the ongoing **fiscal year's budget estimates**, centrally sponsored scholarship schemes for **SCs, OBCs, Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs), and DNTs** accounted for **66.7% of the Social Justice Department's ₹13,611 crore allocation**.  
चालू **वित्तीय वर्ष के बजट अनुमान** में, **SC, OBC, अत्यंत पिछड़ी जातियों (EBC), और DNT** छात्रों के लिए केंद्र प्रायोजित छात्रवृत्ति योजनाओं का **सामाजिक न्याय विभाग के ₹13,611 करोड़ आवंटन का 66.7%** हिस्सा था।
- In the **Tribal Affairs Ministry**, centrally sponsored scholarship schemes for **ST students** accounted for about **18.6% of the department's ₹14,925.81 crore allocation for FY 2025-26**.  
**जनजातीय मामलों के मंत्रालय** में, **ST छात्रों के लिए केंद्र प्रायोजित छात्रवृत्ति योजनाओं का FY 2025-26 के लिए मंत्रालय के ₹14,925.81 करोड़ आवंटन का लगभग 18.6%** हिस्सा था।

### Number of Scholarship Beneficiaries

#### छात्रवृत्ति लाभार्थियों की संख्या

- According to available **government data**, tabled in **Parliament** and submitted before **House panels**, the number of beneficiaries for **post and pre-matric scholarships** across **socio-economic groups** has been falling.  
उपलब्ध **सरकारी आंकड़ों** के अनुसार, जो **संसद** में प्रस्तुत किए गए और **हाउस पैनलों** के सामने



रखे गए, सामाजिक-आर्थिक समूहों में पोस्ट और प्री-मैट्रिक छात्रवृत्तियों के लाभार्थियों की संख्या घटती जा रही है।

- From 2020-21 to 2024-25, there was a **30.63% drop** in the number of beneficiaries for **pre-matric scholarships for SCs**.  
2020-21 से 2024-25 के बीच, **SC छात्रों के प्री-मैट्रिक छात्रवृत्तियों के लाभार्थियों में 30.63% की गिरावट हुई**।
- In the same time period, beneficiaries for **SC post-matric scholarships** dropped by **4.22%**, according to data tabled in **Parliament** this week.  
इसी समय अवधि में, **SC पोस्ट-मैट्रिक छात्रवृत्तियों के लाभार्थियों में 4.22% की कमी आई**, जैसा कि इस सप्ताह **संसद में प्रस्तुत आंकड़ों में दिखाया गया**।
- Data from earlier this year showed that for **pre-matric scholarships** for **OBCs, EBCs, and DNTs**, the beneficiaries dropped from **58.62 lakh** in 2021-22 to a little over **20.25 lakh** in 2023-24.  
इस वर्ष के पहले के आंकड़े दिखाते हैं कि **OBC, EBC, और DNT छात्रों के प्री-मैट्रिक छात्रवृत्तियों में लाभार्थियों की संख्या 2021-22 में 58.62 लाख से घटकर 2023-24 में 20.25 लाख के थोड़े ऊपर रह गई**।
- A similar drop was seen in **post-matric scholarships** for these sections in the same time period, reducing from **43.34 lakh beneficiaries** to **38.42 lakh**.  
इसी समय अवधि में, इन वर्गों के लिए **पोस्ट-मैट्रिक छात्रवृत्तियों में भी समान गिरावट देखी गई**, जो **43.34 लाख लाभार्थियों से घटकर 38.42 लाख हो गई**।
- For **STs**, there was a drop of **4.63 lakh beneficiaries** in this time period for **pre-matric scholarships**, and a drop of **3.52 lakh beneficiaries** for **post-matric scholarships**.  
**ST छात्रों के लिए**, इस समय अवधि में **प्री-मैट्रिक छात्रवृत्तियों में 4.63 लाख लाभार्थियों की गिरावट और पोस्ट-मैट्रिक छात्रवृत्तियों में 3.52 लाख लाभार्थियों की कमी हुई**।

#### House Panel Recommendations on Scholarships and Eligibility संसदीय पैनलों द्वारा छात्रवृत्तियों और पात्रता पर सिफारिशें

- In a report on schemes for **OBCs** run by the **Social Justice Ministry**, the **Parliamentary Committee on Welfare of OBCs** recommended a “suitable rise” in the **income limit from ₹2.5 lakh** for scholarships for OBC students.  
**सामाजिक न्याय मंत्रालय द्वारा संचालित OBC योजनाओं पर एक रिपोर्ट में, OBC कल्याण संसदीय समिति ने OBC छात्रों के लिए छात्रवृत्तियों की ₹2.5 लाख की आय सीमा में “उचित वृद्धि” की सिफारिश की**।
- The panel asked the government to **double the income limit** for beneficiaries of **pre and post-matric scholarships for OBCs**, and also suggested a “suitable rise” in income limits for beneficiaries of **top-class scholarships for school and college education**.  
पैनल ने सरकार से अनुरोध किया कि **OBC छात्रों के प्री और पोस्ट-मैट्रिक छात्रवृत्तियों के लाभार्थियों के लिए आय सीमा दोगुनी की जाए**, और स्कूल और कॉलेज शिक्षा के **शीर्ष श्रेणी छात्रवृत्तियों के लाभार्थियों के लिए भी “उचित वृद्धि” की सिफारिश की**।
- The panel also recommended that the **pre-matric scholarship for OBCs**, currently offered only for **Class IX and X**, should start covering students from **Class V onwards**.  
पैनल ने यह भी सिफारिश की कि **OBC छात्रों के प्री-मैट्रिक छात्रवृत्ति**, जो वर्तमान में केवल **कक्षा IX और X के लिए है, कक्षा V से छात्रों को शामिल करना शुरू कर दे**।
- A separate House panel, set up to oversee the **Tribal Affairs and Social Justice ministries** in **March 2025**, noted the same about **post and pre-matric scholarships for ST students**, recommending that the **parental income limits** be revised for these schemes.



एक अलग संसदीय पैनल, जो मार्च 2025 में जनजातीय मामले और सामाजिक न्याय मंत्रालय की कार्यप्रणाली पर नजर रखने के लिए गठित किया गया था, ने SA छात्रों के पोस्ट और प्री-मैट्रिक छात्रवृत्तियों के बारे में भी यही सुझाव दिया और इन योजनाओं के लिए माता-पिता की आय सीमा में संशोधन की सिफारिश की।

- These **House panels** emphasized the importance of these scholarships and noted that the **existing parental income limit was too low**, preventing many needy families from accessing them.

इन संसदीय पैनलों ने इन छात्रवृत्तियों के महत्व पर जोर दिया और नोट किया कि **वर्तमान माता-पिता की आय सीमा बहुत कम है**, जिससे कई जरूरतमंद परिवार इन तक पहुँच नहीं पा रहे हैं।

- They suggested that the **parental income limit** be raised so that coverage can be extended to as many beneficiaries as need it.

उन्होंने सुझाव दिया कि **माता-पिता की आय सीमा बढ़ाई जाए** ताकि अधिक से अधिक जरूरतमंद लाभार्थियों तक इसका कवरेज पहुँच सके।

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VISIONARIES OF THE PAST: General K.S. Thimayya, Chief of Army Staff, taking the salute in Bangalore on March 18, 1961. THE HINDU ARCHIVES



## Military biographies: a matter of heroes and overlapping history

Three narratives collectively depict how the Indian armed forces have evolved since **Independence to the 1990s**. By exploring the paths of **General Thimayya, Lt. Gen. Rostum Nanavatty and Air Chief Marshal Idris Latif**, the biographies seek to capture their influence on the nation's history

GS I: Post Independence India  
Prabhal Dasgupta

**V**K. Krishna Menon, India's defence minister before and during the 1962 Sino-Indian war, was not a popular figure with the service chiefs, who nicknamed him 'God Almighty' for his overbearing ways. Not particularly fond of Gen. Thimayya (Timmy), Menon sought the opinion of Major General Sam Manekshaw on Thimayya. Sam, outspoken and articulate, replied, "Sir, as a junior officer, we are not permitted to express an opinion on a superior officer. We respect our seniors and we have no two opinions on it." In his book on **Thimayya, An Amazing Life (KW Publishers)**, Brigadier C.B. Khanduri writes about this innocuous but pivotal conversation that kickstarted a political storm leading to Thimayya's resignation, which he later retracted.

Biographies on Indian military leaders from different eras reveal overlapping spaces in history. For instance, Khanduri's book mentions how Timmy's recommendations on China were ignored by Menon, leading to India's debacle in 1962. On the other hand, Arjun Subramaniam's book **Shooting Straight** (HarperCollins) begins the career story of Lt. Gen. Rostum (Rusty) Nanavatty after the 1962 conflict. Nanavatty was commissioned at the end of the war, a few years after Timmy's career ended and at a time when a demoralised national leadership was undergoing a catharsis. Subramaniam highlights a letter written by the young Lieutenant Nanavatty who is remarkably unsparring in his criticism of the leadership for its follies in the war.

**Infection point**  
The author deftly uses the letter to bring out the fearlessness in the young officer's thinking. In a way, Subramaniam's

narrative in **Shooting Straight** is a consequential document about the war's impact on young Indians. The stories of Timmy and Rusty are from different Indias – separated by the war of 1962 as the inflection point. Wedged between the two eras is the post-war decade after 1971. On one hand, the wars of the 1960s were over and on the other, the insurgencies of Punjab and Kashmir of the 1980s hadn't yet arrived. Air Chief Marshal Idris Latif was an Air Force Chief during this period in the late 1970s. His wife, Bilkees Latif, in her book on her husband **The Ladder of His Life (KW Publishers)**, reminisces about an important dimension of the question of choice during Partition in 1947. Soon after the Partition was announced, Latif, then a young air force officer, was goaded by another Muslim officer leaving for Pakistan to join him. To the officer's opinion that Pakistan was a land for Muslims, Latif replied, "You must be joking; what has religion got to do with nationality? I'm an Indian, born in Hyderabad, you know – and not the Hyderabad in Pakistan!" He even advised the departing officer to stay, insisting that the Indian Air Force would be a better choice. Latif followed in the footsteps of Brigadier Mohd Usman who chose India over Pakistan. The story of Latif, who rose to become India's first Muslim Air Chief, is emblematic of the secular culture of India's military.

**Past, present, future**  
Typically, biographies provide a framework to situate events in the context of a nation's journey. Military biographies assign signposts on the time-trajectory in a country's history, especially in India, where the journey post-independence has been a progression from early existential struggles to assertions of identity. By exploring the paths of these protagonists, the biographies seek to capture the

cultural impressions, personalities, choices, and help contextualise judgements on these characters. In the case of Nanavatty, peeling away his personality helps reveal his versatility. Like the tenure in Sri Lanka in the 1980s, when para commando units were sceptical of Nanavatty's role as a commander but grew to respect his initiative, wholeheartedness and an ability to lead from the front.

Subramaniam's writing, lucid and accessible, aided by the protagonist's painstaking notes, brings out the clarity of Nanavatty's thinking, which underpinned his career philosophy. Khanduri writes about Timmy as a committed and vocal personality who commanded a larger than life presence. He carried the legacy and impressions of a colonial army, and oversaw the transition during post-independence nation-building, before the era of wars in the 1960s. Nanavatty, on the other hand, was the archetypal infantryman who believed that victory is measured by the proverbial 'foot', and whose spartan measures set a high bar in tackling 'dirty' insurgencies of the 1990s.

**Complex journeys**  
The biographies of Timmy, Latif and Nanavatty help us understand the personalities and the road taken by each. While Timmy's life is set in a time of tussles within the government, Latif played a key role in the modernisation following the 1971 war, including the replacement of old Canberra aircraft and the induction of Jaguars, all the while working with two different Prime Ministers of different political parties. Subramaniam's work on Nanavatty reveals the general's approach in more complex security challenges than the other two – which involved the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka and the

insurgency in Kashmir. The three narratives collectively depict how the Indian armed forces have evolved since independence to the nineties.

The three books delve into the nuances of military leadership, particularly with the stakeholders – political or military. All three were straight shooters in their approach, but differed on their styles. While Timmy could be vocal and confrontational, Latif managed the political leadership adroitly, while Nanavatty, by the 1990s, had adopted a pragmatic approach.

Despite these three eminently readable books and a recently republished biography of Gen. Srinagsh (Commanded by Destiny/Penguin Books), military biographies are rare in India. Many belong to an era of World Wars, when accounts were documented and information was archived better. Sadly, within this thin historiography, several books suffer from abysmal writing or hagiographical accounts. One wishes to see more critique of the protagonist in accounts. In his book, Subramaniam reminds us that objective biographies of military leaders, especially those whose careers reached a pinnacle in the 1980s and 1990s, are rare, which makes Lt. Gen. Nanavatty's book both relevant and unusual. At the level of perceptions, military biographies in India run the risk of being mistakenly assumed to be technical accounts of a closed community. In a country where the military has had a major role to play in its history, a diminished understanding robs readers of an essential part of history defined by its characters. India needs more biographies that provide a lens to understand people and past events, and their influence upon the present.

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## Military Biographies: A Matter of Heroes and Overlapping History

### सैन्य जीवनी: नायकों और ओवरलैपिंग इतिहास का मामला

#### Indian Military Leaders: Biographies and Insights

##### भारतीय सैन्य नेताओं: जीवनी और अंतर्दृष्टि

- **V.K. Krishna Menon**, India's defence minister before and during the **1962 Sino-Indian war**, was not popular with service chiefs, who nicknamed him 'God Almighty' for his overbearing ways.  
V.K. कृष्णा मेनन, भारत के रक्षा मंत्री 1962 के चीन-भारत युद्ध से पहले और दौरान, सेवा प्रमुखों के बीच लोकप्रिय नहीं थे, जिन्होंने उन्हें उनके अत्यधिक दबंग स्वभाव के लिए 'गॉड आलमाइटी' कहा।
- Menon was not particularly fond of **Gen. Thimayya (Timmy)** and sought the opinion of **Major General Sam Manekshaw** on him.  
मेनन को जनरल थिमय्या (टिमी) विशेष रूप से पसंद नहीं थे और उन्होंने उनके बारे में राय जानने के लिए मेजर जनरल सैम मानेकशाँ से पूछा।
- **Sam Manekshaw replied politely that as a junior officer, they were not permitted to express an opinion on a superior officer.**  
सैम मानेकशाँ ने शिष्टतापूर्वक जवाब दिया कि एक जूनियर अधिकारी के रूप में, उन्हें वरिष्ठ अधिकारी पर राय व्यक्त करने की अनुमति नहीं है।
- **Brigadier C.B. Khanduri in his book An Amazing Life** describes this conversation as pivotal, which eventually led to Thimayya's resignation, later retracted.  
ब्रिगेडियर C.B. खंडूरी ने अपनी किताब **An Amazing Life** में इस बातचीत को महत्वपूर्ण बताया, जिसने अंततः थिमय्या के इस्तीफे की ओर अग्रसर किया, जिसे बाद में वापस लिया गया।
- Biographies reveal overlapping historical spaces; Khanduri notes Timmy's recommendations on China were ignored by Menon, leading to India's **1962 debacle.**  
जीवनी से इतिहास के ओवरलैपिंग पहलू सामने आते हैं; खंडूरी बताते हैं कि मेनन ने चीन पर टिमी की सिफारिशों की अनदेखी की, जिससे भारत का 1962 का संकट आया।
- **Arjun Subramanian's Shooting Straight** narrates Lt. Gen. **Rostum (Rusty) Nanavatty's** career post-1962 conflict, highlighting young officers' perspectives on demoralised leadership.  
अर्जुन सुब्रमण्यम की **Shooting Straight** में लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल **रोस्टम (रस्टी) नानावटी** के करियर का वर्णन 1962 के संघर्ष के बाद किया गया है, जो युवा अधिकारियों की नजर में राष्ट्रीय नेतृत्व की मानसिक स्थिति को दर्शाता है।

#### Inflection Point

##### मोड़ बिंदु

- Subramanian uses a letter by young Lt. Nanavatty to show fearlessness and independent thinking.  
सुब्रमण्यम ने युवा लेफ्टिनेंट नानावटी के पत्र का उपयोग उनकी निर्भीकता और स्वतंत्र सोच को दिखाने के लिए किया।
- Stories of Timmy and Rusty represent different **Indias**, separated by the **1962 war**, with the post-war decade after **1971** in between.  
टिमी और रस्टी की कहानियाँ विभिन्न **भारतों** का प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं, जिन्हें 1962 के युद्ध ने अलग किया, और 1971 के बाद का पोस्ट-वार दशक इसके बीच में है।
- **Air Chief Marshal Idris Latif**, Air Force Chief in late 1970s, resisted leaving for Pakistan after Partition in **1947**, reflecting the secular culture of India's military.



एयर चीफ मार्शल इदरीस लतीफ, 1970 के दशक के अंत में एयर फ़ोर्स चीफ, ने 1947 में विभाजन के बाद पाकिस्तान जाने से इनकार किया, जो भारतीय सैन्य की धर्मनिरपेक्ष संस्कृति को दर्शाता है।

- Latif advised a fellow officer to stay in India, emphasizing that religion is not nationality, choosing the Indian Air Force over Pakistan.  
लतीफ ने एक साथी अधिकारी को भारत में रहने की सलाह दी, यह जोर देते हुए कि धर्म राष्ट्रीयता नहीं है, और पाकिस्तान के बजाय भारतीय एयर फ़ोर्स चुनी।

### Past, Present, Future अतीत, वर्तमान, भविष्य

- Biographies provide a framework to situate events in a nation's journey, showing cultural impressions, personalities, and choices.  
जीवनी राष्ट्रीय यात्रा में घटनाओं को संदर्भित करने का ढांचा देती हैं, जो सांस्कृतिक प्रभाव, व्यक्तित्व और विकल्प दिखाती हैं।
- Nanavatty's versatility is revealed through his actions in Sri Lanka in 1980s, gaining respect despite initial scepticism.  
नानावटी की बहुमुखी प्रतिभा 1980 के दशक में श्रीलंका में उनके कार्यों के माध्यम से सामने आई, जहां शुरुआती संदेह के बावजूद उन्हें सम्मान मिला।
- Subramaniam's narrative is lucid, aided by protagonist's notes, showing clarity in Nanavatty's thinking and career philosophy.  
सुब्रमण्यम की कहानी स्पष्ट है, जिसमें नायक के नोट्स की मदद से नानावटी की सोच और करियर दर्शन की स्पष्टता दिखाई देती है।
- Khanduri describes Timmy as a committed, vocal leader with a larger-than-life presence, overseeing post-independence nation-building before the 1960s wars.  
खंडूरी टिम्मी को एक समर्पित, मुखर नेता के रूप में वर्णित करते हैं, जिनकी अत्यधिक उपस्थिति थी, और जिन्होंने 1960 के दशक के युद्धों से पहले स्वतंत्रता के बाद राष्ट्र निर्माण का नेतृत्व किया।
- Nanavatty was the archetypal infantryman, measuring victory by 'foot', and his spartan measures set high standards against 1990s insurgencies.  
नानावटी आदर्श इन्फैंट्रीमैन थे, जो जीत को 'पैर' से मापते थे, और उनके संयमित उपायों ने 1990 के दशक की विद्रोहियों के खिलाफ उच्च मानक स्थापित किए।

### Complex journeys जटिल यात्राएँ

- The biographies of Timmy, Latif and Nanavatty help us understand the personalities and the road taken by each.  
टिम्मी, लतीफ और नानावटी की जीवनी हमें उनके व्यक्तित्व और उनके द्वारा अपनाए गए मार्ग को समझने में मदद करती है।
- While Timmy's life is set in a time of tussles within the government, Latif played a key role in the modernisation following the 1971 war, including the replacement of old Canberra aircraft and the induction of Jaguars, all the while working with two different Prime Ministers of different political parties.  
जबकि टिम्मी का जीवन सरकार के भीतर संघर्षों के समय में सेट है, लतीफ ने 1971 के युद्ध के बाद आधुनिककरण में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई, जिसमें पुराने कैनबरा विमान को बदलना और जैगुआर विमान को शामिल करना शामिल था, और इस दौरान उन्होंने दो अलग-अलग प्रधानमंत्रियों के साथ काम किया।
- Subramaniam's work on Nanavatty reveals the general's approach in more complex security challenges than the other two — which involved the Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka and the insurgency in Kashmir.  
सुब्रमण्यम का कार्य नानावटी पर अन्य दो की तुलना में अधिक जटिल सुरक्षा चुनौतियों में उनके



दृष्टिकोण को प्रकट करता है — जिसमें श्रीलंका में भारतीय शांति सेना और कश्मीर में विद्रोह शामिल थे।

- The three narratives collectively depict how the **Indian armed forces** have **evolved since independence to the nineties**.  
ये तीनों कथाएँ सामूहिक रूप से दर्शाती हैं कि **भारतीय सशस्त्र बल** ने **स्वतंत्रता से लेकर 1990 के दशक तक** कैसे विकास किया।
- The three books delve into the **nuances of military leadership**, particularly with the **stakeholders — political or military**.  
ये तीनों किताबें **सैनिक नेतृत्व के बारीकियों** में गहराई से जाती हैं, विशेष रूप से **हितधारकों — राजनीतिक या सैनिक** के साथ।
- All three were **straight shooters in their approach**, but differed on their **styles**.  
तीनों ने अपने दृष्टिकोण में **साफ़ और स्पष्ट** थे, लेकिन उनके **शैलियों** में भिन्नता थी
- While **Timmy** could be **vocal and confrontational**, **Latif** managed the **political leadership adroitly**, while **Nanavatty**, by the 1990s, had adopted a **pragmatic approach**.  
जबकि **टिम्मी मुखर और संघर्षात्मक** हो सकते थे, **लतीफ** ने **राजनीतिक नेतृत्व** को निपुणता से संभाला, जबकि **नानावटी**, 1990 के दशक तक, ने **व्यावहारिक दृष्टिकोण** अपनाया।
- Despite these three eminently readable books and a recently republished biography of **Gen. Srinagesh**, military biographies are **rare in India**.  
इन तीनों अत्यंत पठनीय किताबों और हाल ही में पुनः प्रकाशित **जनरल श्रीनागेश** की जीवनी के बावजूद, भारत में सैन्य जीवनी **दुर्लभ** हैं।
- Many belong to an era of **World Wars**, when accounts were documented and information was archived better.  
कई किताबें **विश्व युद्धों** के युग की हैं, जब घटनाओं को दस्तावेज़ किया जाता था और जानकारी को बेहतर ढंग से संग्रहित किया जाता था।
- Sadly, within this thin historiography, several books suffer from **abysmal writing or hagiographical accounts**.  
दुख की बात है कि इस सीमित इतिहासलेखन में कई किताबें **बेहद खराब लेखन या पूजा-प्रसंगात्मक** विवरण से पीड़ित हैं।
- One wishes to see more **critique of the protagonist** in accounts.  
यह अपेक्षा की जाती है कि विवरणों में नायक की अधिक **आलोचना** देखने को मिले।
- In his book, Subramaniam reminds us that **objective biographies** of military leaders, especially those whose careers reached a pinnacle in the **1980s and 1990s**, are **rare**, which makes Lt. Gen. Nanavatty's book both **relevant and unusual**.  
अपनी किताब में, सुब्रमण्यम हमें याद दिलाते हैं कि सैन्य नेताओं की **वस्तुनिष्ठ जीवनी**, विशेष रूप से जिनका करियर **1980 और 1990 के दशक** में चरम पर था, **दुर्लभ** हैं, जिससे लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल नानावटी की किताब दोनों **प्रासंगिक और असाधारण** बनती है।
- At the level of perceptions, military biographies in India run the risk of being mistakenly assumed to be **technical accounts of a closed community**.  
धारणा के स्तर पर, भारत में सैन्य जीवनी के **तकनीकी विवरणों के रूप में गलतफहमी** का खतरा है।
- In a country where the **military** has had a major role to play in its **history**, a diminished understanding robs readers of an essential part of **history defined by its characters**.  
एक ऐसे देश में जहां **सैन्य** ने अपनी **इतिहास** में प्रमुख भूमिका निभाई है, सीमित समझ पाठकों से **इतिहास के महत्वपूर्ण हिस्से** को छीन लेती है जो उसके पात्रों द्वारा परिभाषित है।
- India needs more biographies that provide a **lens to understand people and past events, and their influence upon the present**.  
भारत को अधिक ऐसी जीवनी की आवश्यकता है जो लोगों और **भूतकालीन घटनाओं** को समझने का **दृष्टिकोण** प्रदान करे, और उनके **वर्तमान पर प्रभाव** को दर्शाए।



GS I: History

**Visual question:**

Who chaired the Boundary Commissions for Punjab and Bengal, and what was his professional background?

## Jihadist fighters leave Burkina Faso cotton farmers hanging by a thread

GS I: Mapping

Agence France-Presse  
ABIDJAN

Laurent Koadima yearns for the days when his cotton farm in Burkina Faso allowed him to provide for his family, before advancing jihadists forced them to make sacrifices.

"Before, we were envied because cotton was a good business and the harvests were good," the 48-year-old said. "Today, we struggle to live."

Mr. Koadima is but one of many in Burkina Faso, among Africa's top producers of cotton, whose output has been decimated due to jihadist fighters stalking the Sahel nation for more than a decade.

Many farmers have fled the violence or been forced to leave their crops untended as the threat of ambush made them too dangerous to pick.

As a result, cotton production fell by more than a quarter in one year, from 386,794 tonnes in 2023 to 286,623 in 2024, according to official figures.

"These past two or three years, it's been very tough... the security situation means that we've lost much good farmland," Mr. Koadima said.

"I have trouble tending to my family's needs as last year I was unable to harvest, so currently I'm doing odd jobs and a bit of trading," he added. "Two of my

children have had to drop out of school."

Around four million people out of Burkina Faso's population of 23 million owe their livelihoods to cotton, either directly or indirectly.

Issa Lompo's fields are his sole source of income, which the 38-year-old farmer needs to take care of his seven children.

But his eastern region has been in the firing line since 2018, falling prey to attacks by Islamists affiliated with Al-Qaeda or the Islamic State group.

Though the ruling junta has pledged to crack down on the unrest since seizing power in a coup in September 2022, its military rulers



In limbo: Farmers throw cotton bales in central Burkina Faso. Cotton production has fallen by more than a quarter in a year. AFP

have so far proven unable to stem the jihadist tide.

"In four years, we have lost more than 32,000 cotton farms in the region due to insecurity," Lompo said, adding that those who lost

their fields have turned to "other professions, like herding or business".

One such series of attacks at the end of June killed seven police officers and a soldier near Fada

N'Gourma, the regional capital to which many cotton farmers have sent their families for safety.

The town is home to Socoma, one of Burkina Faso's three big cotton-farming companies.

**'Taking a beating'**

At one point, its farmers produced an average of 80,000 tonnes of cotton a year.

But after three years of minimal harvests, Socoma announced in July that it would fire every one of its hundreds of employees "for economic reasons".

"Its 2024 production had plummeted to 3,000 tonnes.

At its general assembly

in late June, the National Union of Cotton Producers of Burkina Faso sounded the alarm over the obstacles the violence was creating to the transport and harvest of cotton.

Before that, Burkina Faso's Interprofessional Cotton Association had warned in 2023 about the difficulty of delivering agricultural supplies.

But it also bemoaned a rise in sea transport costs, a key issue for a landlocked country which exports nearly all of its cotton abroad, mostly to Asian countries.

"The industry is taking a beating year after year," lamented Moussa Barro, another producer.

According to Burkina Faso's commerce ministry, cotton accounts for four percent of the country's national output and around 14% of its export revenues.

To help shore up its ailing cotton farmers, Burkina Faso's junta has provided subsidies worth five billion CFA francs (\$9 million) for agricultural supplies such as seeds, fertilisers and equipment.

The jihadist insurgency has killed more than 26,000 people, both civilians and soldiers, in Burkina Faso since it began more than 10 years ago.

Over half of those deaths have taken place in the past three years.

## Jihadist fighters leave Burkina Faso cotton farmers hanging by a thread

जिहादी लड़ाके बुर्किना फासो के कपास किसानों को संकट में छोड़ रहे हैं

- Laurent Koadima yearns for the days when his cotton farm in Burkina Faso allowed him to provide for his family, before advancing jihadists forced them to make sacrifices.

लॉरेंट कोडिमा उन दिनों को याद करते हैं जब बुर्किना फासो में उनका कपास का खेत उन्हें अपने परिवार का पालन-पोषण करने की अनुमति देता था, इससे पहले कि आगे बढ़ते जिहादियों ने उन्हें बलिदान करने के लिए मजबूर कर दिया।



- “Before, we were envied because cotton was a good business and the harvests were good,” the 48-year-old said. “Today, we struggle to live.”  
“पहले, हमसे लोग ईर्ष्या करते थे क्योंकि कपास अच्छा व्यापार था और फसलें अच्छी होती थीं,” 48 वर्षीय ने कहा। “आज हम जीने के लिए संघर्ष कर रहे हैं।”
- Mr. Koadima is but one of many in **Burkina Faso**, among Africa’s top producers of cotton, whose output has been decimated due to **jihadist fighters** stalking the Sahel nation for more than a decade.  
श्री कोडिमा, **बुर्किना फासो** में कई लोगों में से एक हैं, जो अफ्रीका के शीर्ष कपास उत्पादकों में है, जिनका उत्पादन **जिहादी लड़ाकों** द्वारा सहेल राष्ट्र में एक दशक से अधिक समय तक आतंक मचाने के कारण नष्ट हो गया है।
- Many farmers have fled the violence or been forced to leave their crops untended as the threat of ambush made them too dangerous to pick.  
कई किसान हिंसा से भाग गए हैं या अपने खेतों को बिना देखरेख के छोड़ने के लिए मजबूर हो गए हैं क्योंकि घात लगाकर हमले का खतरा फसल काटना बहुत खतरनाक बना देता है।
- As a result, cotton production fell by more than a **quarter** in one year, from **386,794 tonnes in 2023 to 286,623 in 2024**, according to official figures.  
परिणामस्वरूप, आधिकारिक आंकड़ों के अनुसार, कपास उत्पादन एक वर्ष में **एक-चौथाई से अधिक** गिर गया, **2023 में 386,794 टन** से घटकर **2024 में 286,623 टन** हो गया।
- “These past two or three years, it’s been very tough... the security situation means that we’ve lost much good farmland,” Mr. Koadima said.  
“पिछले दो-तीन साल बहुत कठिन रहे हैं... सुरक्षा स्थिति का मतलब है कि हमने बहुत सी अच्छी कृषि भूमि खो दी है,” श्री कोडिमा ने कहा।
- “I have trouble tending to my family’s needs as last year I was unable to harvest, so currently I’m doing odd jobs and a bit of trading,” he added. “Two of my children have had to drop out of school.”  
“मुझे अपने परिवार की जरूरतों को पूरा करने में मुश्किल हो रही है क्योंकि पिछले साल मैं फसल नहीं काट सका, इसलिए फिलहाल मैं छोटे-मोटे काम और थोड़ा व्यापार कर रहा हूँ,” उन्होंने जोड़ा। “मेरे दो बच्चों को स्कूल छोड़ना पड़ा है।”
- Around **four million people** out of **Burkina Faso’s population of 23 million** owe their livelihoods to cotton, either directly or indirectly.  
**2.3 करोड़** की आबादी वाले **बुर्किना फासो** में से लगभग **40 लाख लोग** सीधे या अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से कपास पर अपनी आजीविका निर्भर करते हैं।
- Issa Lompo’s fields are his sole source of income, which the **38-year-old** farmer needs to take care of his seven children.  
ईसा लोम्पो के खेत उनकी एकमात्र आय का स्रोत हैं, जिसकी **38 वर्षीय** किसान को अपने सात बच्चों की देखभाल के लिए जरूरत है।
- But his eastern region has been in the firing line since **2018**, falling prey to attacks by **Islamists affiliated with Al-Qaeda or the Islamic State group**.  
लेकिन उनका पूर्वी क्षेत्र **2018** से हमलों की चपेट में है, जो **अल-कायदा** या **इस्लामिक स्टेट** समूह से जुड़े इस्लामवादियों के हमलों का शिकार हुआ है।
- Though the ruling junta has pledged to crack down on the unrest since seizing power in a coup in **September 2022**, its military rulers have so far proven unable to stem the jihadist tide.  
हालांकि शासक जुंटा ने **सितंबर 2022** में तख्तापलट के जरिए सत्ता संभालने के बाद अशांति पर अंकुश लगाने का वादा किया था, इसके सैन्य शासक अब तक जिहादी लहर को रोकने में असमर्थ साबित हुए हैं।
- “In four years, we have lost more than **32,000 cotton farms** in the region due to insecurity,” Lompo said, adding that those who lost their fields have turned to “other professions, like herding or business”.  
“चार वर्षों में, हमने असुरक्षा के कारण इस क्षेत्र में **32,000 से अधिक कपास के खेत** खो दिए हैं,”



लोम्पो ने कहा, यह जोड़ते हुए कि जिनके खेत चले गए हैं, उन्होंने "पशुपालन या व्यापार जैसे अन्य व्यवसाय" अपनाए हैं।

- One such series of attacks at the end of **June** killed **seven police officers** and a soldier near **Fada N'Gourma**, the regional capital to which many cotton farmers have sent their families for safety.

ऐसे ही एक हमलों की श्रृंखला में **जून** के अंत में **फादा एन'गौरमा** के पास **सात पुलिस अधिकारियों** और एक सैनिक की मौत हो गई, जो क्षेत्रीय राजधानी है, जहां कई कपास किसानों ने अपने परिवारों को सुरक्षा के लिए भेजा है।

- The town is home to **Socoma**, one of Burkina Faso's three big cotton-farming companies.

यह शहर **सोकोमा** का घर है, जो बुर्किना फासो की तीन बड़ी कपास-कृषि कंपनियों में से एक है।

- At one point, its farmers produced an average of **80,000 tonnes** of cotton a year.

एक समय, इसके किसान प्रति वर्ष औसतन **80,000 टन** कपास का उत्पादन करते थे।

- But after three years of minimal harvests, Socoma announced in **July** that it would fire every one of its hundreds of employees "for economic reasons".

लेकिन तीन साल की न्यूनतम फसल के बाद, सोकोमा ने **जुलाई** में घोषणा की कि वह अपने सैकड़ों कर्मचारियों में से हर एक को "आर्थिक कारणों" से निकाल देगी।

- Its **2024** production had plummeted to **3,000 tonnes**.

इसका **2024** का उत्पादन घटकर **3,000 टन** रह गया था।

- At its general assembly in late **June**, the **National Union of Cotton Producers of Burkina Faso** sounded the alarm over the obstacles the violence was creating to the transport and harvest of cotton.

**जून** के अंत में अपनी आमसभा में, **बुर्किना फासो के कपास उत्पादकों के राष्ट्रीय संघ** ने हिंसा के कारण कपास के परिवहन और कटाई में आ रही बाधाओं पर चिंता जताई।

- Before that, Burkina Faso's **Interprofessional Cotton Association** had warned in **2023** about the difficulty of delivering agricultural supplies.

इससे पहले, **2023** में बुर्किना फासो के **इंटरप्रोफेशनल कॉटन एसोसिएशन** ने कृषि आपूर्ति देने में कठिनाई की चेतावनी दी थी।

- But it also bemoaned a rise in sea transport costs, a key issue for a **landlocked country** which exports nearly all of its cotton abroad, mostly to **Asian countries**.

लेकिन इसने समुद्री परिवहन लागत में वृद्धि पर भी खेद व्यक्त किया, जो एक **स्थल-रुद्ध देश** के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा है जो लगभग सारा कपास विदेश, विशेष रूप से **एशियाई देशों** में निर्यात करता है।

- "The industry is taking a beating year after year," lamented **Moussa Barro**, another producer.

"उद्योग साल-दर-साल मार खा रहा है," एक अन्य उत्पादक **मौसा बैरो** ने कहा।

- According to Burkina Faso's **commerce ministry**, cotton accounts for **four percent** of the country's national output and around **14%** of its export revenues.

बुर्किना फासो के **वाणिज्य मंत्रालय** के अनुसार, कपास देश के राष्ट्रीय उत्पादन का **चार प्रतिशत** और इसके निर्यात राजस्व का लगभग **14%** है।

- To help shore up its ailing cotton farmers, Burkina Faso's junta has provided subsidies worth **five billion CFA francs (\$9 million)** for agricultural supplies such as seeds, fertilisers and equipment.

अपने बीमार कपास किसानों की मदद के लिए, बुर्किना फासो के जुंटा ने **पांच अरब CFA फ्रैंक (9 मिलियन डॉलर)** की सब्सिडी बीज, उर्वरक और उपकरण जैसी कृषि आपूर्ति के लिए प्रदान की है।

- The **jihadist insurgency** has killed more than **26,000 people**, both civilians and soldiers, in Burkina Faso since it began more than **10 years** ago.

**जिहादी विद्रोह** ने **10 साल** से अधिक पहले शुरू होने के बाद से बुर्किना फासो में नागरिकों और सैनिकों दोनों सहित **26,000 से अधिक लोगों** की हत्या कर दी है।

- Over half of those deaths have taken place in the past **three years**.

इनमें से आधी से अधिक मौतें पिछले **तीन वर्षों** में हुई हैं।



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## TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper II: Polity, Governance, And International Relations)

### 1. Bihar SIR a battle between EC's power, citizens' right to vote

बिहार SIR: चुनाव आयोग की शक्ति और नागरिकों के मतदान अधिकार के बीच संघर्ष

### 2. Aid and advice

सहायता और सलाह

### 3. Africa is challenging China's mining hegemony

अफ्रीका चीन के खनन वर्चस्व को चुनौती दे रहा है

### 4. Record Violence Marks Israel's Push Towards West Bank Annexation

वेस्ट बैंक को जोड़ने के लिए इज़राइल की कोशिशों में रिकॉर्ड हिंसा

PATRIOTICIAS



# Bihar SIR a battle between EC's power, citizens' right to vote: SC

Unlawful procedures in the hasty conduct of special intensive revision process are a 'casual way of doing away with citizens' right to vote', say petitioners; judge says EC has some 'elbow room' for special revision, but in exceptional circumstances

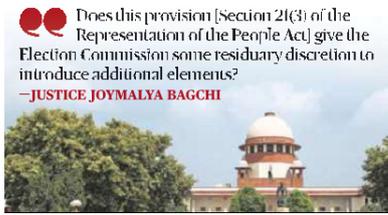
GS II: Elections

Krishnadas Rajagopal  
NEW DELHI

The special intensive revision (SIR) of Bihar's electoral rolls is a battle between the Election Commission's "power" over elections and the ordinary citizen's right to be named in electoral rolls, and to be allowed to vote, the Supreme Court observed on Wednesday.

Justice Joymalya Bagchi, part of the Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant, hearing petitions against the SIR, observed that poll-bound Bihar was in the middle of a contest between **Article 324**, which empowers the Election Commission (EC) to control elections, and the constitutional right of adult suffrage enshrined in **Article 326** of the Constitution.

The judge's observation was in response to arguments raised by senior ad-



Does this provision [Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People Act] give the Election Commission some residuary discretion to introduce additional elements?

—JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI

vocates A.M. Singhvi and Gopal Sankaranarayanan that the procedure of sending pre-filled enumeration forms to electors, only to later delete 65 lakh of them from the electoral roll without any prior enquiry or physical hearing was, to say the least, a "casual way of doing away with citizens' right to vote".

"An elector means someone who is already in the electoral roll. The enumeration form, indicative documents are just figments of the imagination

of the EC. There is no such procedure in the Representation of the People Act. The procedure for removal from the electoral roll is 'absolutely strict' as intended by the Parliament. Removal would only be subsequent to an enquiry, even for one elector. It is the concept of the 'little man' laid down in the Supreme Court by Justice Krishna Iyer... Who gave the EC power to do this, under which law and what authority?" Mr. Sankaranarayanan submitted.

Justice Bagchi referred to the "elbow room" provided to the EC under **Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People (RP) Act**, which says that the EC can conduct a "special revision" in "such manner as it may think fit". "Does this provision give the EC some residuary discretion to introduce additional elements [like enumeration forms, indicative documents]?" Justice Bagchi asked the petitioners.

However, Mr. Sankaranarayanan responded that **Section 21(3) only contemplated a special revision of "any one constituency or a part of a constituency"**.

"Can the provision be used to change the electoral rolls of the entire country from a time of your own choice? Does it authorise EC to embark on an *en masse* revision of the electoral rolls across the country?" the senior advocate responded. **Section 21**

(3) was meant to be resorted to only in "exceptional circumstances", he said.

Summarising **Section 21(3)**, Justice Bagchi said that it authorised the EC to devise procedures for special revision of the electoral roll in case of exceptional circumstances like a natural disaster.

"Otherwise, the EC has to strictly follow **Rules 4 to 24 of the Registration of Electors Rules**," Justice Bagchi said.

Justice Bagchi and Mr. Singhvi debated on whether giving citizens an option to choose from as many as 11 'indicative' documents to prove their citizenship and find their way back to the electoral roll could be considered "voter-inclusive" rather than "voter-exclusionary", as argued by the petitioners.

The judge pointed out that earlier summary revisions provided a choice of only seven documents.

**Bihar SIR a battle between EC's power, citizens' right to vote**

**बिहार SIR: चुनाव आयोग की शक्ति और नागरिकों के मतदान अधिकार के बीच संघर्ष**

**Unlawful procedures in the hasty conduct of special intensive revision (SIR) process are a "casual way of**

**doing away with citizens' right to vote", say petitioners; judge says EC has some "elbow room" for special revision, but in exceptional circumstances.**

त्वरित विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR) प्रक्रिया में किए गए अवैध तरीके नागरिकों के मतदान अधिकार को समाप्त करने का "साधारण तरीका" हैं, याचिकाकर्ताओं का कहना है; न्यायाधीश ने कहा कि चुनाव आयोग (EC) को विशेष पुनरीक्षण के लिए कुछ "छुट" है, लेकिन यह असाधारण परिस्थितियों में है।

- The special intensive revision (SIR) of Bihar's electoral rolls is a battle between the Election Commission's "power" over elections and the ordinary citizen's right to be named in electoral rolls, and to be allowed to vote, the Supreme Court observed on Wednesday.

बिहार के मतदाता सूची के विशेष गहन पुनरीक्षण (SIR) में चुनावों पर चुनाव आयोग की "शक्ति" और सामान्य नागरिक के मतदाता सूची में नाम होने और मतदान करने के अधिकार के बीच संघर्ष है, ऐसा सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बुधवार को कहा।

- Justice Joymalya Bagchi, part of the Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant, hearing petitions against the SIR, observed that poll-bound Bihar was in the middle of a contest between **Article 324**, which empowers the Election Commission (EC) to control elections, and the constitutional right of adult suffrage enshrined in **Article 326** of the Constitution.

न्यायाधीश जॉयमाल्या बागची, न्यायाधीश सूर्य कांत की अध्यक्षता वाली बेंच का हिस्सा, जो SIR के खिलाफ याचिकाओं की सुनवाई कर रहे थे, ने कहा कि चुनावी बिहार अनुच्छेद 324, जो चुनाव आयोग (EC) को चुनाव नियंत्रित करने का अधिकार देता है, और अनुच्छेद 326 में निहित वयस्क मतदान के संवैधानिक अधिकार के बीच संघर्ष में है।

- The judge's observation was in response to arguments raised by senior advocates A.M. Singhvi and Gopal Sankaranarayanan that the procedure of sending pre-filled enumeration forms to electors, only to later delete 65 lakh of them from the



electoral roll without any prior enquiry or physical hearing was, to say the least, a “casual way of doing away with citizens’ right to vote”.

न्यायाधीश का यह अवलोकन वरिष्ठ वकील **A.M. सिंहवी** और **गोपाल संकरनारायणन** द्वारा उठाए गए तर्कों के जवाब में था कि मतदाताओं को **पूर्व-भरे हुए गणना फॉर्म** भेजने की प्रक्रिया, और बाद में **65 लाख** लोगों को किसी पूर्व जांच या शारीरिक सुनवाई के बिना मतदाता सूची से हटाना, कम से कम कहें तो, नागरिकों के मतदान अधिकार को समाप्त करने का “साधारण तरीका” है।

- “An elector means someone who is already in the electoral roll. The enumeration form, indicative documents are just figments of the imagination of the EC. There is no such procedure in the Representation of the People Act. The procedure for removal from the electoral roll is ‘absolutely strict’ as intended by the Parliament. Removal would only be subsequent to an enquiry, even for one elector. It is the concept of the ‘little man’ laid down in the Supreme Court by Justice Krishna Iyer... Who gave the EC power to do this, under which law and what authority?” Mr. Sankaranarayanan submitted.

“एक मतदाता का अर्थ है कोई ऐसा व्यक्ति जो पहले से ही मतदाता सूची में है। गणना फॉर्म, संकेतक दस्तावेज केवल EC की कल्पना के अंश हैं। Representation of the People Act में ऐसी कोई प्रक्रिया नहीं है। मतदाता सूची से हटाने की प्रक्रिया संसद द्वारा निर्धारित अनुसार ‘पूरी तरह सख्त’ है। हटाना केवल जांच के बाद ही होगा, भले ही एक मतदाता के लिए ही क्यों न हो। यह ‘लिटिल मैन’ की अवधारणा है जिसे सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने न्यायाधीश **कृष्ण अय्यर** द्वारा स्थापित किया... किसने EC को यह शक्ति दी, किस कानून के तहत और किस अधिकार के तहत?” श्री संकरनारायणन ने प्रस्तुत किया।

- Justice Bagchi referred to the “elbow room” provided to the EC under Section 21(3) of the Representation of the People (RP) Act, which says that the EC can conduct a “special revision” in “such manner as it may think fit”. “Does this provision give the EC some residuary discretion to introduce additional elements [like enumeration forms, indicative documents]?” Justice Bagchi asked the petitioners.

न्यायाधीश **बागची** ने Representation of the People (RP) Act की धारा 21(3) के तहत EC को दिए गए “छूट क्षेत्र” का उल्लेख किया, जो कहती है कि EC “विशेष पुनरीक्षण” उस “तरीके से कर सकता है जिसे वह उचित समझे”। “क्या यह प्रावधान EC को अतिरिक्त तत्व [जैसे गणना फॉर्म, संकेतक दस्तावेज] पेश करने का कुछ शेष विवेक देता है?” न्यायाधीश **बागची** ने याचिकाकर्ताओं से पूछा।

- However, Mr. Sankaranarayanan responded that Section 21(3) only contemplated a special revision of “any one constituency or a part of a constituency”. “Can the provision be used to change the electoral rolls of the entire country from a time of your own choice? Does it authorise EC to embark on an en masse revision of the electoral rolls across the country?” the senior advocate responded. Section 21(3) was meant to be resorted to only in “exceptional circumstances”, he said.

हालांकि, श्री संकरनारायणन ने उत्तर दिया कि धारा 21(3) केवल किसी “एक निर्वाचन क्षेत्र या किसी निर्वाचन क्षेत्र के हिस्से” के विशेष पुनरीक्षण का प्रावधान करती है। “क्या इस प्रावधान का उपयोग पूरे देश की मतदाता सूचियों को बदलने के लिए आपके चयनित समय से किया जा सकता है? क्या यह EC को पूरे देश में सामूहिक पुनरीक्षण करने का अधिकार देता है?” वरिष्ठ वकील ने कहा। धारा 21(3) केवल “असाधारण परिस्थितियों” में ही लागू की जानी थी।

- Summarising Section 21(3), Justice Bagchi said that it authorised the EC to devise procedures for special revision of the electoral roll in case of exceptional circumstances like a natural disaster. “Otherwise, the EC has to strictly follow Rules 4 to 24 of the Registration of Electors Rules,” Justice Bagchi said.

धारा 21(3) का सार प्रस्तुत करते हुए न्यायाधीश **बागची** ने कहा कि यह EC को असाधारण परिस्थितियों जैसे प्राकृतिक आपदा में मतदाता सूची के विशेष पुनरीक्षण की प्रक्रियाएं बनाने का अधिकार देती है। “अन्यथा, EC को Registration of Electors Rules के नियम 4 से 24 का सख्ती से पालन करना होगा,” न्यायाधीश **बागची** ने कहा।



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- Justice **Bagchi** and Mr. **Singhvi** debated on whether giving citizens an option to choose from as many as **11 'indicative' documents** to prove their citizenship and find their way back to the electoral roll could be considered "voter-inclusive" rather than "voter-exclusionary", as argued by the petitioners.  
न्यायाधीश **बागची** और श्री **सिंहवी** ने इस पर बहस की कि नागरिकों को अपनी नागरिकता साबित करने और मतदाता सूची में वापस आने के लिए **11 'संकेतक' दस्तावेजों** में से विकल्प देने को "मतदाता-सहयोगी" माना जा सकता है या "मतदाता-वर्जक", जैसा कि याचिकाकर्ताओं ने तर्क दिया।
- The judge pointed out that earlier **summary revisions** provided a choice of only **seven documents**.  
न्यायाधीश ने बताया कि पहले के **सारांश पुनरीक्षण** में केवल **सात दस्तावेजों** का विकल्प दिया जाता था।

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GS II: Legislature

## Aid and advice

LG's nominations without government nod could affect J&K's electoral process

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs' assertion to the J&K High Court that the Lieutenant Governor (LG) can nominate five Assembly members without the "aid and advice" of the elected government overrides democratic accountability. Consequential decisions such as nominating members who have voting rights in an elected assembly must flow from democratic mandate, not administrative discretion. The High Court's constitutional question could not be more direct: do the 2023 amendments to the J&K Reorganisation Act, allowing the LG to nominate five Assembly members "which have the potential of converting the minority government into a majority government and vice-versa," violate the Constitution's basic structure? Rather than addressing this, the Ministry delves into legal technicalities. Its submission argues that nominations fall outside the elected government's remit, seemingly invoking the *K. Lakshminarayanan vs The Union of India* precedent from Puducherry while claiming the "sanctioned strength" includes elected and nominated members. It even references Section 12 of the 1963 Union Territories Act (voting procedures) as justification for bypassing democratic consultation. When five nominated members could determine government stability in a 119-member Assembly, the issue transcends statutory definitions of "sanctioned strength". The real question is whether any legal framework allowing appointed officials to potentially overturn the people's electoral verdict violates the democratic essence of the Constitution.

The amendments inserted Sections 15A and 15B into the 2019 Act, allowing the LG to nominate two Kashmiri migrants (including one woman) and one from the Pakistan-occupied J&K community, besides the existing power to nominate two women, if inadequately represented in the elected Assembly. This effectively creates five nominated seats. The High Court's framing of this issue acknowledges the stakes involved: this could "convert minority government into majority government and vice-versa", potentially subverting the electoral process. This concern is not unsubstantiated – in 2021, three years after *Lakshminarayanan*, Puducherry saw nominated members and defecting elected MLAs contributing to the collapse of the Congress-led government. Also, J&K's trajectory to Union Territory, without consultation with elected representatives, makes democratic accountability even more crucial. The unfulfilled promise of Statehood restoration, acknowledged by the Supreme Court and despite overwhelming support in J&K, reinforces that current arrangements should strengthen democratic governance. The Ministry's argument that nominations exist "outside the realm of the business of the elected government" also contradicts evolving Supreme Court jurisprudence. In the Delhi services cases of 2018 and 2023, it ruled that the LG should act on elected governments' aid and advice, with discretionary powers treated as exceptions. Seen in this light, the Ministry's arguments do not hold water.

## Aid and advice सहायता और सलाह

• LG's nominations without government nod could affect J&K's electoral process

सरकार की मंजूरी के बिना एलजी की नियुक्तियां जम्मू-कश्मीर की चुनावी प्रक्रिया को प्रभावित कर सकती हैं

Union Ministry of Home Affairs' assertion to the J&K High Court  
गृह मंत्रालय का जम्मू-कश्मीर उच्च न्यायालय से दावा

• The Union Ministry of Home Affairs' assertion to the J&K High Court that the Lieutenant Governor (LG) can nominate five Assembly members without the "aid and advice" of the elected government overrides democratic accountability.

गृह मंत्रालय का जम्मू-कश्मीर उच्च न्यायालय से यह दावा कि उप राज्यपाल (एलजी) चुनी हुई सरकार की "सहायता और सलाह" के बिना पांच विधानसभा सदस्यों को नामित कर सकते हैं, लोकतांत्रिक जवाबदेही को दरकिनार करता है।

• Consequential decisions such as nominating members who have voting rights in an elected assembly must flow from democratic mandate, not administrative discretion.

चुनी हुई विधानसभा में मतदान का अधिकार रखने वाले सदस्यों की नियुक्ति जैसे महत्वपूर्ण निर्णय लोकतांत्रिक जनादेश से आने चाहिए, न कि प्रशासनिक विवेक से।

• The High Court's constitutional question could not be more direct: do the 2023 amendments to the J&K Reorganisation Act, allowing the LG to nominate five Assembly members "which have the potential of converting the minority government into a majority government and vice-versa," violate the Constitution's basic structure?

उच्च न्यायालय का संवैधानिक प्रश्न बिल्कुल सीधा है: क्या जम्मू-कश्मीर पुनर्गठन अधिनियम में 2023 के संशोधन, जो एलजी को पांच विधानसभा सदस्यों को नामित करने की अनुमति देते हैं "जिससे अल्पमत सरकार को बहुमत में और बहुमत को अल्पमत में बदला जा सकता है", संविधान की मूल संरचना का उल्लंघन करते हैं?

• Rather than addressing this, the Ministry delves into legal technicalities.

इस पर ध्यान देने के बजाय मंत्रालय कानूनी तकनीकीताओं में उलझ जाता है।

• Its submission argues that nominations fall outside the elected government's remit, seemingly invoking the *K. Lakshminarayanan vs The Union of India* precedent from Puducherry while claiming the "sanctioned strength" includes elected and nominated members.

मंत्रालय का तर्क है कि नियुक्तियां चुनी हुई सरकार के दायरे से बाहर हैं, और यह पुडुचेरी के के. लक्ष्मीनारायण बनाम भारत संघ के उदाहरण का हवाला देता है, साथ ही दावा करता है कि "स्वीकृत शक्ति" में चुने हुए और नामित दोनों सदस्य शामिल होते हैं।

• It even references Section 12 of the 1963 Union Territories Act (voting procedures) as justification for bypassing democratic consultation.

यह 1963 का केंद्र शासित प्रदेश अधिनियम की धारा 12 (मतदान प्रक्रिया) का भी हवाला देता है, ताकि लोकतांत्रिक परामर्श को दरकिनार करने को सही ठहराया जा सके।

• When five nominated members could determine government stability in a 119-member Assembly, the issue transcends statutory definitions of "sanctioned strength".



जब 119 सदस्यीय विधानसभा में पांच नामित सदस्य सरकार की स्थिरता तय कर सकते हैं, तो यह मुद्दा “स्वीकृत शक्ति” की कानूनी परिभाषा से आगे निकल जाता है।

- The real question is whether any **legal framework** allowing appointed officials to potentially overturn the people’s electoral verdict violates the **democratic essence** of the Constitution.

वास्तविक प्रश्न यह है कि क्या कोई **कानूनी ढांचा**, जो नियुक्त अधिकारियों को जनता के चुनावी फैसले को पलटने की अनुमति देता है, संविधान के **लोकतांत्रिक सार** का उल्लंघन करता है।

- The amendments inserted **Sections 15A and 15B into the 2019 Act**, allowing the LG to nominate two **Kashmiri migrants** (including one woman) and one from the **Pakistan-occupied J&K** community, besides the existing power to nominate two women, if inadequately represented in the elected Assembly.

संशोधनों ने 2019 के अधिनियम में धारा 15A और 15B जोड़ीं, जिससे एलजी को दो **कश्मीरी प्रवासियों** (जिसमें एक महिला शामिल है) और एक **पाकिस्तान-अधिकृत जम्मू-कश्मीर** समुदाय से सदस्य को नामित करने की अनुमति मिली, इसके अलावा अगर चुनी हुई विधानसभा में महिलाओं का प्रतिनिधित्व अपर्याप्त है तो दो महिलाओं को नामित करने की मौजूदा शक्ति भी मिली।

- This effectively creates **five nominated seats**.

इससे प्रभावी रूप से **पांच नामित सीटें** बनती हैं।

- The High Court’s framing of this issue acknowledges the stakes involved: this could “convert minority government into majority government and vice-versa”, potentially subverting the **electoral process**.

उच्च न्यायालय ने इस मुद्दे को जिस तरह से रखा है, वह दांव पर लगे पहलुओं को मान्यता देता है: इससे “अल्पमत सरकार को बहुमत में और बहुमत को अल्पमत में बदला जा सकता है”, जिससे **चुनावी प्रक्रिया** को संभावित रूप से कमजोर किया जा सकता है।

- This concern is not unsubstantiated — in 2021, **three years after Lakshminarayanan, Puducherry** saw nominated members and defecting elected MLAs contributing to the collapse of the **Congress-led government**.

यह चिंता निराधार नहीं है — 2021 में, **लक्ष्मीनारायणन** के तीन साल बाद, **पुडुचेरी** में नामित सदस्यों और दलबदल चुने गए विधायकों ने **कांग्रेस-नेतृत्व वाली सरकार** के पतन में योगदान दिया।

- Also, **J&K’s trajectory to Union Territory**, without consultation with elected representatives, makes **democratic accountability** even more crucial.

साथ ही, चुने हुए प्रतिनिधियों से परामर्श के बिना **जम्मू-कश्मीर** का **केंद्र शासित प्रदेश** बनना, **लोकतांत्रिक जवाबदेही** को और भी महत्वपूर्ण बना देता है।

- The unfulfilled promise of **Statehood restoration**, acknowledged by the **Supreme Court** and despite overwhelming support in J&K, reinforces that current arrangements should strengthen **democratic governance**.

**राज्य का दर्जा बहाल करने** के अधूरे वादे, जिसे **सुप्रीम कोर्ट** ने भी स्वीकार किया है, और जम्मू-कश्मीर में भारी समर्थन के बावजूद, यह साबित करता है कि मौजूदा व्यवस्थाओं को **लोकतांत्रिक शासन** को मजबूत करना चाहिए।

- The Ministry’s argument that nominations exist “outside the realm of the business of the elected government” also contradicts evolving **Supreme Court jurisprudence**.

मंत्रालय का यह तर्क कि नियुक्तियां “**चुनी हुई सरकार के कार्यक्षेत्र से बाहर**” हैं, विकसित हो रही **सुप्रीम कोर्ट की न्यायशास्त्र** से भी टकराता है।

- In the **Delhi services cases** of 2018 and 2023, it ruled that the LG should act on elected governments’ aid and advice, with **discretionary powers** treated as exceptions.

**दिल्ली सेवा मामलों** में 2018 और 2023 में अदालत ने कहा कि एलजी को चुनी हुई सरकार की सहायता और सलाह पर काम करना चाहिए, और **विवेकाधीन शक्तियों** को अपवाद के रूप में देखा जाना चाहिए।

- Seen in this light, the Ministry’s arguments do not hold water.

इस दृष्टिकोण से देखने पर, मंत्रालय के तर्क टिकते नहीं हैं।



# Africa is challenging China's mining hegemony

GS II: Africa

Over the past two decades, China has entrenched itself as a dominant actor in Africa's mining sector. But signs are mounting that the tide is beginning to turn.

A new wave of resistance, driven by increased scrutiny from African governments as well as civil society activism, is starting to challenge China's long-standing dominance in Africa's mining industry. Chinese firms have often failed to deliver promised skills transfer or infrastructure. Consequently, African nations are growingly asserting their rights to value-added development. The old model of raw resource extraction in exchange for infrastructure or investments is no longer tenable in a region demanding agency, accountability, and economic sovereignty.

## No longer passive partners

Africa is home to some of the world's richest reserves of critical minerals. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) alone produces 80% of the world's cobalt, a mineral indispensable for rechargeable batteries. China controls around 80% of that output through long-standing agreements such as the Sino Congolaise des Mines (Sicomines) deal, which granted Chinese firms mining rights in exchange for infrastructure projects. However, the benefits to local Congolese have been disproportionate to the mineral wealth extracted.

According to the civil society coalition Congo Is Not for Sale (CNPAS), tax exemptions granted to Chinese companies cost the DRC approximately \$132 million in 2024 alone. These losses have spurred public outrage, and citizens have called for a full review of the Sicomines deal. Further, since the payments are tied to market prices, there is a real risk that the country could receive little or no infrastructure investment during downturns.

Faced with mounting criticism, the Congolese government was



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Across Africa, Beijing's mining dominance is now being scrutinised more closely, with a growing demand for fairer, more transparent partnerships

forced to renegotiate the existing contracts with China, especially in light of fluctuating copper prices. The DRC reportedly plans to increase its stake in a joint venture with Chinese firms Sinohydro and China Railway Group, raising its ownership from 32% to 70%. Last year, after Congo's state-owned miner, Gecamines, voiced its opposition, the sale of Trafigura-backed miner Chemaf Resources to China's Norin Mining was cancelled. In Namibia, China's Xinfeng Investments has been accused of acquiring its lithium mine through a bribe of N\$ 50 million. Over the years, Xinfeng has exported thousands of tonnes of raw lithium ore to China but has not constructed the promised processing facilities. Workers at the company have also reported hazardous working conditions and substandard housing. In 2023, China's Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt invested \$300 million to construct a lithium processing plant in Zimbabwe. Most benefits will likely flow back to China unless robust regulatory frameworks and local capacity-building initiatives are implemented.

China's dominance has also triggered environmental and social concerns. In Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe, Chinese firm Sunny Yi Feng's application for coal mining permits has been blocked by environmental authorities. In Zambia, a catastrophic acid spill from a Chinese-owned copper mine contaminated a significant tributary of the Kafue River, one of the country's most critical water sources. In Cameroon, resistance is growing against the massive Lobé-Kribi Iron Ore Project led by Sinosteel Cam S.A., a subsidiary of China's Sinosteel Corporation. Local NGOs have warned that the project threatens ecosystems, public health, and cultural heritage. Many community members see the project as a fait accompli, pushed through without adequate consultation or benefit-sharing.

Across Africa, Beijing's

once-unquestioned mining dominance is now being scrutinised more closely, with a growing demand for fairer, more transparent partnerships. This signals a newfound assertiveness by African governments, who are no longer content to act as passive partners in resource exploitation.

## Policy changes

Meanwhile, strategic policy changes are also occurring. In 2022, Zimbabwe banned the export of unprocessed lithium to force investors to build local processing plants. In 2023, Namibia implemented a similar export ban on unprocessed lithium and other critical minerals. These countries aim to retain more value from their mineral wealth by requiring local beneficiation. Similar stories are unfolding across the continent.

Still, policy alone is not enough. These export bans must match broader economic strategies to ensure local participation in processing and transformation. Otherwise, they risk simply shifting exploitation from one form to another. African leaders must ensure that domestic processing leads to fundamental economic transformation, not just a new phase of elite capture.

China may still be Africa's largest mining partner, but the future of its dominance is no longer guaranteed. Moreover, a clear shift is underway, where African nations are reasserting sovereignty over their natural resources. By challenging opaque contracts, enforcing environmental standards, and demanding value addition, they are redrawing the terms of engagement. If these trends continue, African countries are poised to reshape the global supply chain for minerals and their role within it, moving from exporters of raw materials to integral partners in the emerging green economy. This change would come at the expense of China's long-standing dominance in the African mining sector.

**Africa is challenging China's mining hegemony**  
अफ्रीका चीन के खनन वर्चस्व को चुनौती दे रहा है



## China's Dominance in Africa's Mining Sector

### अफ्रीका के खनन क्षेत्र में चीन का प्रभुत्व

- Over the past two decades, **China** has entrenched itself as a **dominant actor** in **Africa's mining sector**. But signs are mounting that the tide is beginning to turn. पिछले दो दशकों में, **चीन** ने खुद को **अफ्रीका के खनन क्षेत्र** में एक **प्रमुख खिलाड़ी** के रूप में स्थापित कर लिया है। लेकिन संकेत मिल रहे हैं कि परिस्थितियां बदलने लगी हैं।
- A new wave of **resistance**, driven by increased **scrutiny** from **African governments** as well as **civil society activism**, is starting to challenge **China's long-standing dominance** in Africa's mining industry. **अफ्रीकी सरकारों** की बढ़ती **जांच-पड़ताल** और **नागरिक समाज की सक्रियता** से प्रेरित **प्रतिरोध** की एक नई लहर, अफ्रीका के खनन उद्योग में **चीन के लंबे समय से चले आ रहे प्रभुत्व** को चुनौती देने लगी है।
- Chinese firms** have often failed to deliver promised **skills transfer or infrastructure**. **चीनी कंपनियां** अक्सर वादा किए गए **कौशल हस्तांतरण** या **बुनियादी ढांचे** को प्रदान करने में विफल रही हैं।
- Consequently, African nations are increasingly asserting their rights to **value-added development**. परिणामस्वरूप, अफ्रीकी राष्ट्र **मूल्य-वर्धित विकास** के अपने अधिकार को तेजी से स्थापित कर रहे हैं।
- The old model of **raw resource extraction** in exchange for **infrastructure or investments** is no longer tenable in a **region demanding agency, accountability, and economic sovereignty**. **एजेंसी, जवाबदेही और आर्थिक संप्रभुता** की मांग करने वाले क्षेत्र में **बुनियादी ढांचे** या निवेश के बदले **कच्चे संसाधनों के दोहन** का पुराना मॉडल अब टिकाऊ नहीं है।

## No Longer Passive Partners

### अब निष्क्रिय भागीदार नहीं

- Africa is home to some of the world's **richest reserves of critical minerals**. अफ्रीका दुनिया के **सबसे समृद्ध भंडारों** का घर है, जिनमें **महत्वपूर्ण खनिज** शामिल हैं।
- The **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** alone produces **80% of the world's cobalt, a mineral indispensable for rechargeable batteries**. **कांगो लोकतांत्रिक गणराज्य (DRC)** अकेले दुनिया के **कोबाल्ट** का **80%** उत्पादन करता है, जो **रिचार्जबल बैटरियों** के लिए अनिवार्य खनिज है।
- China** controls around **80%** of that output through long-standing agreements such as the **Sino Congolaise des Mines (Sicomines)** deal, which granted **Chinese firms** mining rights in exchange for **infrastructure projects**. **चीन** उस उत्पादन का लगभग **80%** लंबे समय से चले आ रहे समझौतों, जैसे **सिनो कॉन्गोलेज़ डेस माइंस (Sicomines)** सौदे, के माध्यम से नियंत्रित करता है, जिसने **चीनी कंपनियों** को **बुनियादी ढांचा परियोजनाओं** के बदले खनन अधिकार दिए।
- However, the benefits to local **Congolese** have been **disproportionate** to the mineral wealth extracted. हालांकि, स्थानीय **कांगोली नागरिकों** को मिलने वाले लाभ निकाले गए खनिज धन के अनुपात में **असमानुपातिक** रहे हैं।
- According to the **civil society coalition Congo Is Not for Sale (CNPAV)**, **tax exemptions** granted to Chinese companies cost the **DRC** approximately **\$132 million** in **2024** alone. **सिविल सोसाइटी गठबंधन कांगो इज़ नॉट फॉर सेल (CNPAV)** के अनुसार, चीनी कंपनियों को दिए गए **कर छूट** के कारण केवल **2024** में ही **DRC** को लगभग **\$132 मिलियन** का नुकसान हुआ।



- These losses have spurred **public outrage**, and citizens have called for a full **review** of the **Sicomines deal**.  
इस नुकसान ने **जन आक्रोश** को भड़काया है, और नागरिकों ने **Sicomines सौदे** की पूरी **समीक्षा** की मांग की है।
- Since the payments are tied to **market prices**, there is a real risk that the country could receive **little or no infrastructure investment** during **downturns**.  
चूंकि भुगतान **बाजार कीमतों** से जुड़ा है, इसलिए वास्तविक जोखिम है कि **मंदी** के दौरान देश को **बहुत कम या कोई बुनियादी ढांचा निवेश** नहीं मिल सकता।
- Faced with mounting criticism, the **Congolese government** was forced to **renegotiate** the existing contracts with **China**, especially in light of fluctuating **copper prices**.  
बढ़ती आलोचना का सामना करते हुए, **कांगोली सरकार** को **चीन** के साथ मौजूदा अनुबंधों को फिर से **बातचीत** करनी पड़ी, खासकर **तांबे की कीमतों** में उतार-चढ़ाव के मद्देनज़र।
- **The DRC reportedly plans to increase its stake in a joint venture with Chinese firms Sinohydro and China Railway Group, raising its ownership from 32% to 70%.**  
बताया जाता है कि **DRC** अपनी हिस्सेदारी **चीनी कंपनियों Sinohydro** और **चाइना रेलवे ग्रुप** के साथ एक **संयुक्त उद्यम** में **32%** से बढ़ाकर **70%** करने की योजना बना रहा है।
- Last year, after **Congo's state-owned miner, Gecamines**, voiced its opposition, the sale of **Trafigura-backed miner Chemaf Resources** to **China's Norin Mining** was cancelled.  
पिछले साल, **कांगो की सरकारी खनन कंपनी Gecamines** के विरोध के बाद, **ट्राफिगुरा समर्थित खनन कंपनी Chemaf Resources** की **चीन की नोरिन माइनिंग** को बिक्री रद्द कर दी गई।
- **In Namibia, China's Xinfeng Investments has been accused of acquiring its lithium mine through a bribe of N\$ 50 million.**  
**नामीबिया** में, **चीन की Xinfeng इन्वेस्टमेंट्स** पर **N\$ 50 मिलियन** की घूस देकर अपनी **लिथियम खान** हासिल करने का आरोप लगा है।
- Over the years, **Xinfeng** has exported **thousands of tonnes** of raw **lithium ore** to **China** but has not constructed the promised **processing facilities**.  
वर्षों से, **Xinfeng** ने कच्चे **लिथियम अयस्क** के **हजारों टन चीन** को निर्यात किए हैं, लेकिन वादा किए गए **प्रसंस्करण संयंत्र** का निर्माण नहीं किया है।
- Workers at the company have also reported **hazardous working conditions** and **substandard housing**.  
कंपनी के कर्मचारियों ने **खतरनाक कार्य परिस्थितियों** और **मानक से कम आवास** की भी शिकायत की है।
- **In 2023, China's Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt** invested **\$300 million** to construct a **lithium processing plant** in **Zimbabwe**.  
**2023** में, **चीन की झेजियांग हुआयो कोबाल्ट** ने **जिम्बाब्वे** में एक **लिथियम प्रसंस्करण संयंत्र** बनाने के लिए **\$300 मिलियन** का निवेश किया।
- Most benefits will likely flow back to **China** unless **robust regulatory frameworks** and **local capacity-building initiatives** are implemented.  
जब तक **मजबूत नियामक ढांचे** और **स्थानीय क्षमता-विकास पहलों** को लागू नहीं किया जाता, तब तक अधिकांश लाभ संभवतः **चीन** को ही वापस जाएंगे।

**China's dominance has also triggered environmental and social concerns**  
**चीन का वर्चस्व पर्यावरणीय और सामाजिक चिंताओं को भी जन्म दे चुका है**

- In **Hwange National Park** in **Zimbabwe**, Chinese firm **Sunny Yi Feng's** application for coal mining permits has been blocked by environmental authorities.



जिम्बाब्वे के हांगे नेशनल पार्क में, चीनी कंपनी सनी यी फेंग के कोयला खनन परमिट के आवेदन को पर्यावरणीय प्राधिकरणों द्वारा रोक दिया गया है।

- In **Zambia**, a **catastrophic acid spill** from a Chinese-owned copper mine contaminated a significant tributary of the **Kafue River**, one of the country's most critical water sources.  
जाम्बिया में, चीनी स्वामित्व वाली कॉपर माइन से **विनाशकारी एसिड रिसाव** ने **काप्पू नदी** की एक महत्वपूर्ण सहायक नदी को प्रदूषित कर दिया, जो देश के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण जल स्रोतों में से एक है।
- In **Cameroon**, resistance is growing against the massive **Lobé-Kribi Iron Ore Project** led by **Sinosteel Cam S.A.**, a subsidiary of **China's Sinosteel Corporation**.  
कैमरून में, चीन की **सिनोस्टील कॉर्पोरेशन** की सहायक कंपनी **सिनोस्टील कैम् S.A.** द्वारा संचालित विशाल **लोबे-क्रिबी आयरन अयस्क परियोजना** के खिलाफ विरोध बढ़ रहा है।
- Local NGOs have warned that the project threatens **ecosystems, public health, and cultural heritage**.  
स्थानीय एनजीओ ने चेतावनी दी है कि यह परियोजना **पारिस्थितिक तंत्र, सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य और सांस्कृतिक विरासत** के लिए खतरा है।
- Many community members see the project as a **fait accompli**, pushed through without adequate consultation or benefit-sharing.  
कई समुदाय के सदस्य इस परियोजना को एक **निश्चित तथ्य** मानते हैं, जिसे पर्याप्त परामर्श या लाभ-साझाकरण के बिना आगे बढ़ाया गया है।
- Across Africa, Beijing's once-unquestioned mining dominance is now being scrutinised more closely, with a growing demand for **fairer** and more **transparent partnerships**.  
पूरे अफ्रीका में, बीजिंग का कभी अटूट खनन वर्चस्व अब अधिक बारीकी से जांचा जा रहा है, और **अधिक न्यायसंगत और पारदर्शी साझेदारियों** की मांग बढ़ रही है।
- This signals a newfound assertiveness by African governments, who are no longer content to act as **passive partners** in resource exploitation.  
यह अफ्रीकी सरकारों के नए आत्मविश्वास का संकेत है, जो अब संसाधन दोहन में **निष्क्रिय भागीदार** बने रहने से संतुष्ट नहीं हैं।

## Policy changes नीतिगत परिवर्तन

- In **2022**, **Zimbabwe** banned the export of **unprocessed lithium** to force investors to build local processing plants.  
**2022** में, **जिम्बाब्वे** ने **अप्रसंस्कृत लिथियम** के निर्यात पर प्रतिबंध लगाया ताकि निवेशकों को स्थानीय प्रसंस्करण संयंत्र बनाने के लिए मजबूर किया जा सके।
- In **2023**, **Namibia** implemented a similar export ban on **unprocessed lithium** and other **critical minerals**.  
**2023** में, **नामीबिया** ने **अप्रसंस्कृत लिथियम** और अन्य **महत्वपूर्ण खनिजों** के निर्यात पर इसी तरह का प्रतिबंध लागू किया।
- These countries aim to retain more value from their mineral wealth by requiring **local beneficiation**.  
ये देश **स्थानीय लाभकारी प्रसंस्करण** की आवश्यकता के माध्यम से अपने खनिज संपदा से अधिक मूल्य बनाए रखना चाहते हैं।
- Similar stories are unfolding across the continent.  
महाद्वीप भर में इसी तरह की कहानियां सामने आ रही हैं।
- Still, policy alone is not enough.  
फिर भी, केवल नीति पर्याप्त नहीं है।
- These export bans must match broader **economic strategies** to ensure **local participation** in processing and transformation.



इन निर्यात प्रतिबंधों को प्रसंस्करण और परिवर्तन में **स्थानीय भागीदारी** सुनिश्चित करने के लिए व्यापक **आर्थिक रणनीतियों** से मेल खाना चाहिए।

- Otherwise, they risk simply shifting exploitation from one form to another. अन्यथा, इनके केवल एक रूप से दूसरे रूप में शोषण स्थानांतरित होने का खतरा है।
- African leaders must ensure that **domestic processing** leads to fundamental **economic transformation**, not just a new phase of **elite capture**. अफ्रीकी नेताओं को यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि **घरेलू प्रसंस्करण** बुनियादी **आर्थिक परिवर्तन** की ओर ले जाए, न कि केवल **अभिजात वर्ग के कब्जे** के एक नए चरण की ओर।
- China may still be Africa's largest mining partner, but the future of its dominance is no longer guaranteed. चीन अभी भी अफ्रीका का सबसे बड़ा खनन साझेदार हो सकता है, लेकिन उसके वर्चस्व का भविष्य अब सुनिश्चित नहीं है।
- Moreover, a clear shift is underway, where African nations are reasserting **sovereignty** over their **natural resources**. इसके अलावा, एक स्पष्ट बदलाव चल रहा है, जहां अफ्रीकी राष्ट्र अपने **प्राकृतिक संसाधनों** पर **संप्रभुता** फिर से स्थापित कर रहे हैं।
- By challenging **opaque contracts**, enforcing **environmental standards**, and demanding **value addition**, they are redrawing the **terms of engagement**. **अस्पष्ट अनुबंधों** को चुनौती देकर, **पर्यावरण मानकों** को लागू करके और **मूल्य संवर्धन** की मांग करके, वे **सगाई की शर्तों** को फिर से परिभाषित कर रहे हैं।
- If these trends continue, African countries are poised to reshape the **global supply chain for minerals** and their role within it, moving from **exporters of raw materials** to **integral partners in the emerging green economy**. यदि ये रुझान जारी रहते हैं, तो अफ्रीकी देश **खनिजों की वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखला** और उसमें अपनी भूमिका को फिर से आकार देने के लिए तैयार हैं, **कच्चे माल के निर्यातकों** से **उभरती हरित अर्थव्यवस्था में अभिन्न साझेदारों** में परिवर्तित हो रहे हैं।
- This change would come at the expense of **China's long-standing dominance** in the African mining sector. यह बदलाव अफ्रीकी खनन क्षेत्र में **चीन के लंबे समय से चले आ रहे वर्चस्व** की कीमत पर आएगा।



## Record violence marks Israel's push towards West Bank annexation

Displacement of Palestinians in West Bank has hit levels not seen since the start of Israel's occupation, says the UN

ISS II: Israel Palestine

### DATA POINT

Sambavi Parthasarathy

A day after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that Israel intends to take full control of the Gaza Strip, the country's security cabinet, on August 8, approved a plan to seize control of Gaza City. Israel then stepped up its bombardment.

While Israel continues to pound one of Palestine's non-contiguous regions – Gaza – and push its society to the brink, it is slowly asserting "sovereignty" over the other – West Bank. Last month, the Israeli Parliament voted in favour of a historic declaration that officially supported the application of Israeli sovereignty to West Bank, which the Israelis refer to as Judea and Samaria. While the motion carried no immediate legal bearing, it is seen as a political step towards annexation.

In July 2024, Israel had declared that it was opposed to the establishment of a Palestinian state west of the Jordan river. This time, as the Knesset voted in favour of the non-binding motion, its speaker declared, "In 1967, the occupation did not start, it ended. That is the historical truth, and the one and only way to reach genuine peace is from [a position of] power."

While West Bank has been under Israeli occupation since 1967, data shows that Israel's position of power over the West Bank has intensified since October 7, 2023, with a record number of displacements, settler attacks, and a stifled economy. Settler attacks in this analysis only involves incidents of violence, intimidation or trespass by Israeli settlers against Palestinians in West Bank.

More than 600 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces or settler attacks in West Bank since 2024. This is 28% of all Palestinians killed in the region in nearly two decades (Chart 1).

The number of attacks by Israeli settlers, which either resulted in casualties or damages to property, surged post-2023 (Chart 2).

West Bank has witnessed 3,500 such attacks since 2023. This accounted for 40% of all attacks by Israeli settlers on Palestinians in the last two decades. In 2024, this figure climbed to an all-time high in nearly two decades. Survey data from the Israel Democracy Institute shows over 40% Israelis think that settlers who engaged in violence are treated very leniently by the Israeli forces (Chart 3).

The region also saw a high number of displacements of Palestinians in the 2023-2025 period due to Israeli military operations, or settler violence, or access restrictions, or demolitions. The United Nations on July 15 this year said that displacement in West Bank had hit levels not seen since the start of Israel's occupation nearly 60 years ago.

More than 4,000 people were displaced from West Bank in 2024 – the highest number recorded since 2009. Additionally, 29,338 Palestinians have been displaced due to operations by Israeli forces in the Jenin and Tulkaram camps in the northern region of West Bank in 2025 (Chart 4).

Data also shows that more than 3,000 Palestinian homes and other structures have been either demolished, seized, or sealed since 2023 in West Bank (Chart 5).

More than a hundred outposts were newly built since 2023 in West Bank. Outposts refer to Israeli settlements, considered illegal even under Israeli law. In 2024 alone, 61 such outposts were built – the highest in a year since 1990 (Chart 6).

With the number of illegal settlers increasing to more than 5 lakh in 2023, from less than 5,000 in 1977, the situation in West Bank already echoes the Knesset speaker's statement from last month. He said, "We are here to stay, and the Knesset has said this by a large majority."



### West Bank under siege

The data for the charts are sourced from the UN OCHA, Peace Now, and the Israel Democracy Institute

Chart 1: Number of Palestinians killed by Israeli forces or settlers in the West Bank

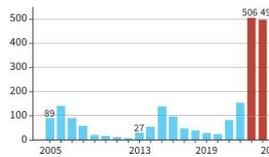


Chart 2: Attacks by Israeli settlers against Palestinians that resulted in casualties and/or property damage

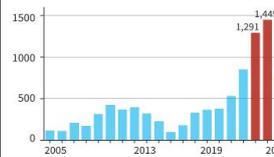


Chart 3: Over 40% Israelis think that settlers who engaged in violence were treated very leniently by the Israeli forces

Response	Israeli citizens (%)
Too harshly	23.4
Too leniently	42.1
Appropriately	23.4

Chart 4: Palestinians displaced in West Bank due to Israeli military operations or settler violence

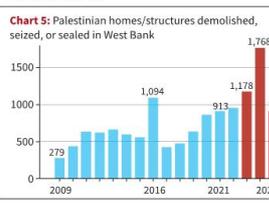


Chart 5: Palestinian homes/structures demolished, seized, or sealed in West Bank

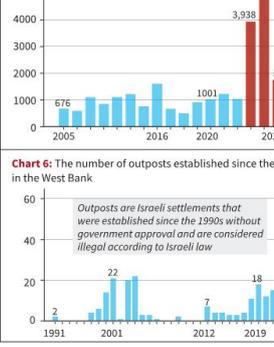
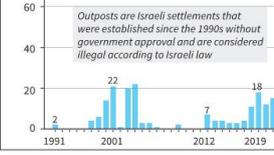


Chart 6: The number of outposts established since the 1990s in the West Bank



## Record Violence Marks Israel's Push Towards West Bank Annexation

### वेस्ट बैंक को जोड़ने के लिए इज़राइल की कोशिशों में रिकॉर्ड हिंसा

- Displacement of **Palestinians in West Bank** has hit levels not seen since the start of **Israel's occupation**, says the **UN**.  
संयुक्त राष्ट्र (UN) के अनुसार, वेस्ट बैंक में फिलिस्तीनियों का विस्थापन इज़राइल के कब्जे की शुरुआत के बाद से जो स्तर नहीं देखा गया, उस स्तर तक पहुँच गया है।

### Israel's Actions in Gaza and West Bank इज़राइल की गाजा और वेस्ट बैंक में कार्रवाई

- A day after Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** said that **Israel intends to take full control of the Gaza Strip**, the country's **security cabinet**, on **August 8**, approved a plan to **seize control of Gaza City**.  
एक दिन बाद जब प्रधानमंत्री **बेंजामिन नेतन्याहू** ने कहा कि **इज़राइल गाजा पट्टी पर पूरा नियंत्रण लेने का इरादा रखता है**, देश की **सुरक्षा कैबिनेट** ने **8 अगस्त** को गाजा सिटी पर नियंत्रण पाने की योजना को मंजूरी दी।



- Israel then stepped up its **bombardment**.  
इसके बाद इज़राइल ने **बमबारी** तेज कर दी।
- While Israel continues to pound one of Palestine's **non-contiguous regions — Gaza** — and push its society to the brink, it is slowly asserting "**sovereignty**" over the other — **West Bank**.  
जबकि इज़राइल फिलिस्तीन के **असंपर्क क्षेत्रों — गाजा** पर हमला जारी रखता है और उसकी समाज को संकट में धकेलता है, वह धीरे-धीरे दूसरे क्षेत्र — **वेस्ट बैंक** पर अपनी "**सार्वभौमिकता**" स्थापित कर रहा है।
- Last month, the **Israeli Parliament** voted in favour of a historic declaration that officially supported the application of Israeli **sovereignty** to **West Bank**, which the Israelis refer to as **Judea and Samaria**.  
पिछले महीने, **इज़राइली संसद** ने एक ऐतिहासिक घोषणा के पक्ष में मतदान किया, जो आधिकारिक रूप से इज़राइल की **सार्वभौमिकता** को **वेस्ट बैंक** पर लागू करने का समर्थन करती है, जिसे इज़राइली लोग **जूडिया और सामरिया** कहते हैं।
- While the motion carried no immediate legal bearing, it is seen as a **political step towards annexation**.  
हालांकि इस प्रस्ताव का तत्काल कानूनी असर नहीं था, इसे **अनुच्छेद के लिए राजनीतिक कदम** माना जाता है।
- In **July 2024**, Israel had declared that it was opposed to the establishment of a **Palestinian state west of the Jordan river**.  
**जुलाई 2024** में, इज़राइल ने घोषणा की थी कि वह **जॉर्डन नदी के पश्चिम में फिलिस्तीनी राज्य** की स्थापना का विरोध करता है।
- As the **Knesset** voted in favour of the non-binding motion, its speaker declared, "In 1967, the occupation did not start, it ended. That is the historical truth, and the one and only way to reach genuine peace is from [a position of] power."  
जब **कनेसट** ने गैर-बाध्यकारी प्रस्ताव के पक्ष में मतदान किया, तो इसके अध्यक्ष ने कहा, "1967 में, कब्जा शुरू नहीं हुआ था, यह समाप्त हुआ। यही **ऐतिहासिक सच्चाई** है, और वास्तविक शांति तक पहुंचने का एकमात्र तरीका **शक्ति की स्थिति** से है।"
- While West Bank has been under **Israeli occupation since 1967**, data shows that Israel's position of **power over West Bank** has intensified since **October 7, 2023**, with a record number of **displacements, settler attacks, and a stifled economy**.  
जबकि वेस्ट बैंक **1967 से इज़राइली कब्जे** में है, आंकड़े दिखाते हैं कि **7 अक्टूबर 2023** से वेस्ट बैंक पर इज़राइल की **शक्ति की स्थिति** बढ़ गई है, जिसमें रिकॉर्ड संख्या में **स्थलांतरण, बसावट हमले और दबा हुआ अर्थव्यवस्था** शामिल है।
- Settler attacks in this analysis involve incidents of **violence, intimidation or trespass** by Israeli settlers against Palestinians in West Bank.  
इस विश्लेषण में बसावट हमलों में **हिंसा, डराना या अतिक्रमण** की घटनाएं शामिल हैं, जो वेस्ट बैंक में इज़राइली बसावट करने वालों द्वारा फिलिस्तीनियों के खिलाफ की गई हैं।
- More than **600 Palestinians** have been killed by **Israeli forces or settler attacks** in West Bank since 2024.  
2024 से वेस्ट बैंक में **इज़राइली बलों या बसावट हमलों** में **600 से अधिक फिलिस्तीनी** मारे गए हैं।
- This is **28%** of all Palestinians killed in the region in nearly two decades.  
यह क्षेत्र में पिछले लगभग दो दशकों में मारे गए सभी फिलिस्तीनियों का **28%** है।
- The number of attacks by Israeli settlers, resulting in **casualties or property damage**, surged post-2023.  
इज़राइली बसावट करने वालों द्वारा किए गए हमलों की संख्या, जिनमें **हानियां या संपत्ति को नुकसान** शामिल है, **2023 के बाद बढ़ गई**।
- West Bank has witnessed **3,500 such attacks since 2023**, accounting for **40% of all attacks by Israeli settlers** on Palestinians in the last two decades.



वेस्ट बैंक में 2023 से 3,500 ऐसे हमले हुए हैं, जो पिछले दो दशकों में फिलिस्तीनियों पर इज़राइली बसावट द्वारा किए गए सभी हमलों का 40% हैं।

- In 2024, this figure climbed to an **all-time high in nearly two decades**. 2024 में यह आंकड़ा पिछले दो दशकों में **सर्वाधिक** तक पहुंच गया।
- Survey data from the **Israel Democracy Institute** shows over **40% Israelis** think that settlers who engaged in violence are treated **very leniently** by the Israeli forces. **इज़राइल डेमोक्रेसी इंस्टिट्यूट** के सर्वेक्षण डेटा से पता चलता है कि **40% से अधिक इज़राइली** मानते हैं कि हिंसा में शामिल बसावट करने वालों के साथ इज़राइली बलों द्वारा **बहुत ही ढीला व्यवहार** किया जाता है।
- The region also saw a high number of **displacements of Palestinians** in the **2023-2025 period** due to **Israeli military operations, settler violence, access restrictions, or demolitions**. इस क्षेत्र में **2023-2025 अवधि** में **फिलिस्तीनियों के उच्च स्थलांतरण** देखे गए, जो **इज़राइली सैन्य संचालन, बसावट हिंसा, पहुंच प्रतिबंध या ध्वंस** के कारण हुए।
- The **United Nations** on **July 15** this year said that displacement in West Bank had hit levels not seen since the start of Israel's occupation nearly **60 years ago**. **संयुक्त राष्ट्र** ने इस वर्ष **15 जुलाई** को कहा कि वेस्ट बैंक में स्थलांतरण ने ऐसे स्तर तक पहुंच गया है जो इज़राइल के कब्जे की शुरुआत के लगभग **60 साल पहले** के बाद नहीं देखा गया।
- More than **4,000 people** were displaced from West Bank in 2024 — the **highest number recorded since 2009**. 2024 में वेस्ट बैंक से **4,000 से अधिक लोग** विस्थापित हुए — जो **2009 के बाद दर्ज की गई सबसे अधिक संख्या** है।
- Additionally, **29,338 Palestinians** have been displaced due to **operations by Israeli forces** in the **Jenin and Tulkaram camps** in the northern region of West Bank in 2025. इसके अतिरिक्त, **29,338 फिलिस्तीनी** 2025 में वेस्ट बैंक के उत्तरी क्षेत्र में **जेनिन और तुलकराम शिविरों** में **इज़राइली बलों के संचालन** के कारण विस्थापित हुए।
- Data also shows that more than **3,000 Palestinian homes and structures** have been either **demolished, seized, or sealed** since 2023 in West Bank. डेटा यह भी दिखाता है कि वेस्ट बैंक में 2023 से **3,000 से अधिक फिलिस्तीनी घर और संरचनाएं** या तो **ध्वस्त, जब्त, या सील** की गई हैं।
- More than a hundred **outposts** were newly built since 2023 in West Bank. Outposts refer to **Israeli settlements considered illegal under Israeli law**. वेस्ट बैंक में 2023 से **100 से अधिक आउटपोस्ट** नए बनाए गए हैं। आउटपोस्ट से आशय **इज़राइली बसावट** से है, जिन्हें **इज़राइली कानून के तहत अवैध** माना जाता है।
- In 2024 alone, **61 such outposts** were built — the **highest in a year since 1990**. केवल 2024 में, **61 ऐसे आउटपोस्ट** बनाए गए — जो **1990 के बाद किसी वर्ष में सबसे अधिक** हैं।
- With the number of **illegal settlers increasing to more than 5 lakh in 2023**, from less than **5,000 in 1977**, the situation in West Bank already echoes the Knesset speaker's statement from last month. वेस्ट बैंक में **अवैध बसावट करने वालों की संख्या 2023 में 5 लाख से अधिक** हो गई है, जो 1977 में **5,000 से कम** थी, जिससे वेस्ट बैंक की स्थिति पहले ही पिछले महीने कनेसट अध्यक्ष के बयान की **अनुरूपता** दर्शाती है।
- He said, "We are here to stay, and the **Knesset has said this by a large majority**." उन्होंने कहा, "हम यहाँ रहने के लिए हैं, और **कनेसट ने इसे भारी बहुमत से कहा है।**"



## TOPICS COVERED (GS Paper III: Polity, Governance, And International Relations)

- 1. Govt. tweaks export promotion plan to soften blow of U.S. tariffs**  
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अमेरिका, भारत नहीं, है 'टैरिफ किंग', अमूल एमडी का कहना

है

# Govt. tweaks export promotion plan to soften blow of U.S. tariffs

Tariff-hit sectors such as textiles, shrimp exporters, and organic chemicals to become new focus of the Export Promotion Mission announced in the Budget; MSME exporters will get credit guarantees, speedy clearances, and export incentives

GS III: India\_US

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan

NEW DELHI

**T**he Indian government is tweaking its earlier plans for an Export Promotion Mission to make it more targeted towards specific sectors in the wake of the increased tariffs imposed by the U.S. on imports from India, *The Hindu* has learnt.

This would entail reducing the cost of credit for medium, small and micro enterprise (MSME) borrowers in the worst-hit sectors, expediting clearances, and providing them with some sort of export incentives. It is a joint effort across several Ministries and involves detailed consultations with industry stakeholders.

The sectors which will face the brunt of the U.S. tariffs are apparel and textiles, shrimp exporters, or-

### Bracing for impact

The govt. is tweaking its Export Promotion Mission to target the sectors that will likely be worst-affected by Trump's tariffs



■ Affected sectors will include **textiles, organic chemicals, and machinery**

■ This effort, spanning across Ministries, provides **easier export credit access** and speedier clearances for **MSME exporters**

■ An official confirmed that a **credit guarantee scheme** was being prepared to help exporters

ganic chemicals, and machinery and mechanical appliances, according to an analysis by the Global Trade Research Initiative.

### To offer greater aid

"The Export Promotion Mission announced in the latest Budget is being tweaked now to provide more help to particular sectors that are likely to be hit by the [U.S.] tariffs," a senior government official

told *The Hindu*, speaking on the condition of anonymity. "The broad contours are to provide credit guarantees to MSME exporters, speed up their clearances, and there is some discussion on how to provide export incentives," the government official added.

In the Union Budget for 2025-26, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced an Export Pro-

motion Mission with a ₹2,250 crore allocation for the current financial year, which would "facilitate easy access to export credit, cross-border factoring support, and support to MSMEs to tackle non-tariff measures in overseas markets".

The official said that the tweaked Mission would cover these targets as well, adding that the Mission would now include coordination with the Ministry of Textiles and Department of Fisheries, in addition to Ministries of Commerce, Finance, and MSME.

Industry players have also confirmed that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has been in regular touch with them to receive their feedback and inputs. Trade analysts, too, confirmed this.

"Internally, authorities are consulting extensively

with exporters and sector representatives to fine-tune immediate relief measures and shape a long-term, resilient trade strategy capable of withstanding global shocks," said Krishan Arora, Partner at Grant Thornton Bharat.

### Focus on MSME exports

Separately, a Finance Ministry official also confirmed that the Ministry was coordinating with others to come up with a scheme that could address some of the issues being faced by these exporters.

The government had, as far back as January, announced a credit guarantee scheme for the MSME sector, which would cover loans up to ₹100 crore. The Finance Ministry official said that this scheme was being revamped to "focus on the export aspects of these MSMEs' activities".

## Govt. tweaks export promotion plan to soften blow of U.S. tariffs

अमेरिकी शुल्क के प्रभाव को कम करने के लिए सरकार ने निर्यात संवर्धन योजना में बदलाव किया



- **Tariff-hit sectors such as textiles, shrimp exporters, and organic chemicals to become new focus of the Export Promotion Mission announced in the Budget; MSME exporters will get credit guarantees, speedy clearances, and export incentives.**  
टैरिफ से प्रभावित क्षेत्रों जैसे कि वस्त्र, झींगा निर्यातक और ऑर्गेनिक केमिकल्स को बजट में घोषित निर्यात संवर्धन मिशन का नया फोकस बनाया जाएगा; MSME निर्यातकों को क्रेडिट गारंटी, तेज मंजूरी और निर्यात प्रोत्साहन मिलेगा।
- The Indian government is tweaking its earlier plans for an **Export Promotion Mission** to make it more targeted towards **specific sectors** in the wake of the increased tariffs imposed by the **U.S.** on imports from India, The Hindu has learnt. भारतीय सरकार अपने पहले के **निर्यात संवर्धन मिशन** की योजनाओं में बदलाव कर रही है ताकि यह **विशिष्ट क्षेत्रों** पर अधिक लक्षित हो सके, **अमेरिका** द्वारा भारत से आयात पर बढ़ाए गए टैरिफ के मद्देनजर, The Hindu ने जानकारी प्राप्त की।
- This would entail **reducing the cost of credit for medium, small and micro enterprise (MSME) borrowers in the worst-hit sectors, expediting clearances, and providing them with some sort of export incentives.**  
इसमें सबसे प्रभावित क्षेत्रों के **मध्यम, लघु और सूक्ष्म उद्यम (MSME) उधारकर्ताओं** के लिए **क्रेडिट लागत** कम करना, **मंजूरी प्रक्रिया** में तेजी लाना और उन्हें किसी प्रकार का **निर्यात प्रोत्साहन** प्रदान करना शामिल होगा।
- It is a **joint effort across several Ministries** and involves detailed consultations with **industry stakeholders.**  
यह कई **मंत्रालयों में संयुक्त प्रयास** है और इसमें **उद्योग हितधारकों** के साथ विस्तृत परामर्श शामिल है।
- The **sectors which will face the brunt of the U.S. tariffs are apparel and textiles, shrimp exporters, organic chemicals, and machinery and mechanical appliances,** according to an analysis by the **Global Trade Research Initiative.**  
**Global Trade Research Initiative** के विश्लेषण के अनुसार, जिन क्षेत्रों पर **अमेरिकी शुल्क** का सबसे अधिक प्रभाव पड़ेगा वे हैं **परिधान और वस्त्र, झींगा निर्यातक, ऑर्गेनिक केमिकल्स और मशीनरी एवं यांत्रिक उपकरण।**
- **To offer greater aid**  
**अधिक सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए**
- “The **Export Promotion Mission** announced in the latest **Budget** is being **tweaked now** to provide more help to particular sectors that are likely to be hit by the [U.S.] tariffs,” a senior **government official** told The Hindu, speaking on the condition of anonymity.  
“हाल के **बजट** में घोषित **निर्यात संवर्धन मिशन** को अब बदल कर उन विशेष क्षेत्रों को अधिक मदद प्रदान करने के लिए तैयार किया जा रहा है, जिन पर [अमेरिकी] टैरिफ का प्रभाव पड़ने की संभावना है,” एक वरिष्ठ **सरकारी अधिकारी** ने The Hindu को नाम न बताने की शर्त पर बताया।
- “The broad contours are to provide **credit guarantees to MSME exporters,** speed up their **clearances,** and there is some discussion on how to provide **export incentives,**” the government official added.  
“मुख्य रूपरेखा यह है कि **MSME निर्यातकों** को **क्रेडिट गारंटी** प्रदान की जाए, उनकी **मंजूरी प्रक्रिया** को तेज किया जाए, और **निर्यात प्रोत्साहन** कैसे दिए जाएँ इस पर चर्चा हो रही है,” अधिकारी ने जोड़ा।
- In the **Union Budget for 2025-26,** Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** had announced an **Export Promotion Mission** with a **₹2,250 crore allocation** for the current financial year, which would “facilitate easy access to **export credit,** cross-border factoring support, and support to **MSMEs** to tackle **non-tariff measures** in overseas markets.”  
**2025-26 के संघीय बजट** में, वित्त मंत्री **निर्मला सीतारमण** ने वर्तमान वित्तीय वर्ष के लिए **₹2,250**



करोड़ के आवंटन के साथ निर्यात संवर्धन मिशन की घोषणा की थी, जो निर्यात क्रेडिट तक आसान पहुँच, सीमा पार फैक्ट्रिंग समर्थन और MSME को विदेशी बाजारों में गैर-शुल्क उपायों से निपटने के लिए समर्थन प्रदान करेगा।

- The official said that the **tweaked Mission** would cover these targets as well, adding that the Mission would now include coordination with the **Ministry of Textiles** and **Department of Fisheries**, in addition to Ministries of **Commerce, Finance, and MSME**.

अधिकारी ने कहा कि **संशोधित मिशन** इन लक्ष्यों को भी कवर करेगा और मिशन में अब **वस्त्र मंत्रालय** और **मछली पालन विभाग** के साथ समन्वय शामिल होगा, इसके अलावा **वाणिज्य, वित्त और MSME मंत्रालय** भी इसमें शामिल होंगे।

- Industry players have also confirmed that the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry** has been in regular touch with them to receive their **feedback and inputs**. Trade analysts, too, confirmed this.

उद्योग खिलाड़ियों ने भी पुष्टि की है कि **वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय** नियमित रूप से उनसे **प्रतिक्रिया और सुझाव** प्राप्त करने के लिए संपर्क में है। व्यापार विश्लेषकों ने भी इसे पुष्टि की।

- “Internally, authorities are consulting extensively with **exporters** and **sector representatives** to finetune **immediate relief measures** and shape a **long-term, resilient trade strategy** capable of withstanding global shocks,” said **Krishan Arora**, Partner at **Grant Thornton Bharat**.

“आंतरिक रूप से, अधिकारी व्यापक रूप से **निर्यातकों** और **क्षेत्र प्रतिनिधियों** से परामर्श कर रहे हैं ताकि **तत्काल राहत उपायों** को समायोजित किया जा सके और **दीर्घकालिक, लचीली व्यापार रणनीति** तैयार की जा सके जो वैश्विक झटकों का सामना कर सके,” **क्रिशन अरोड़ा, ग्रांट थॉर्नटन भारत** के पार्टनर ने कहा।

- **Focus on MSME exports**  
**MSME निर्यात पर फोकस**

- Separately, a **Finance Ministry official** also confirmed that the Ministry was coordinating with others to come up with a **scheme** that could address some of the issues being faced by these **exporters**.

इसके अलावा, एक **वित्त मंत्रालय अधिकारी** ने भी पुष्टि की कि मंत्रालय अन्य विभागों के साथ समन्वय कर रहा है ताकि एक **योजना** बनाई जा सके जो इन **निर्यातकों** द्वारा सामना की जा रही कुछ समस्याओं को हल कर सके।

- The government had, as far back as **January**, announced a **credit guarantee scheme** for the **MSME sector**, which would cover **loans up to ₹100 crore**.

सरकार ने पहले ही **जनवरी** में **MSME क्षेत्र** के लिए **क्रेडिट गारंटी योजना** की घोषणा की थी, जो **₹100 करोड़ तक के ऋण** को कवर करेगी।

- The Finance Ministry official said that this scheme was being revamped to “focus on the **export aspects** of these **MSMEs’ activities**.”

वित्त मंत्रालय के अधिकारी ने कहा कि इस योजना को फिर से तैयार किया जा रहा है ताकि इन **MSME गतिविधियों के निर्यात पहलुओं** पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया जा सके।



# 'Undocumented migrants leaving via eastern border tripled in 2025'

GS III: IS

**Vijaita Singh**  
NEW DELHI

The number of undocumented migrants – suspected to be from Bangladesh – apprehended by the Border Security Force (BSF) while attempting to voluntarily leave India through the eastern border this year was over three times higher than in 2024, government data show.

In 2024, as many as 1,049 undocumented people were apprehended while leaving the country while till July 15 this year, 3,536 undocumented people were caught by the BSF, a senior government official said. The number of people who were stopped when they tried to enter the country from Bangladesh last year stood at 2,425, while till July 15 this year, the number was 1,372.

The official said that post the political changes in neighbouring Bangladesh on August 5, 2024, there has been a surge in the number of undocumented migrants exiting



**Close watch:** BSF personnel patrol along the India-Bangladesh border in Agartala. PTI

the country voluntarily.

The voluntary exits are different from the “pushback” drive against alleged illegal migrants being pursued by police across the country on the directions of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22.

After the regime change in Bangladesh last year, the MHA asked police to detect and deport Bangladeshis who had illegally entered the country and were living here on forged documents. The drive assumed momentum after the Pahalgam terror attack and the

MHA asked States to deport the undocumented migrants but in most cases “pushback” is happening, the latter not defined under law. According to various estimates, around 2,500 people, thought to be from Bangladesh have been “pushed back” across the eastern border.

Rajya Sabha member Samirul Islam, from the Trinamool Congress, said that at least seven people from West Bengal who were “illegally pushed into Bangladesh by the BSF” have been brought back because of the State government’s efforts and after the fami-

lies filed *habeas corpus* petitions in the Calcutta High Court. The BSF has denied the “pushback”.

A senior BSF official said that the force, deployed along the 4,096-km border with Bangladesh has been on a heightened vigil since August 2024, with instructions from the MHA “to not allow anyone into the country without valid documents”.

“Undocumented migrants leaving the country voluntarily is not a new trend. In the past also, we have caught both Indians and Bangladeshis crossing the border illegally. Post August 2024, however there has been a sharp increase in the number of such people leaving India. If they are not involved in a serious crime, we let them go as keeping them here entails registration of a long legal procedure,” the BSF official said.

Since 2018, as many as 17,637 Bangladeshi nationals were intercepted by the BSF along the eastern border while 3,342 individuals were caught in 2023.

## Undocumented migrants leaving अवैध प्रवासी भारत छोड़ रहे हैं

The number of undocumented migrants — suspected to be from Bangladesh — apprehended by the Border Security Force (BSF) while attempting to voluntarily leave India through the eastern border this year was over three times higher than in 2024, government data show.

इस साल पूर्वी सीमा के माध्यम से स्वेच्छा से भारत छोड़ने का प्रयास करते समय सीमा सुरक्षा बल (BSF) द्वारा पकड़े गए अवैध प्रवासियों की संख्या — जो बांग्लादेश के होने का संदेह है — 2024 की तुलना में तीन गुना अधिक रही, सरकारी आंकड़े बताते हैं।

In 2024, as many as 1,049 undocumented people were apprehended while leaving the country while till July 15 this year, 3,536 undocumented people were caught by the BSF, a senior government official said.



2024 में, देश छोड़ते समय 1,049 अवैध लोग पकड़े गए थे, जबकि इस साल 15 जुलाई तक, 3,536 अवैध लोग BSF द्वारा पकड़े गए, एक वरिष्ठ सरकारी अधिकारी ने कहा।

- The number of people who were stopped when they tried to enter the country from **Bangladesh** last year stood at **2,425**, while till **July 15 this year, the number was 1,372**.  
पिछले साल जब लोग **बांग्लादेश** से देश में प्रवेश करने का प्रयास कर रहे थे, तो उन्हें रोका गया और उनकी संख्या **2,425** थी, जबकि इस साल **15 जुलाई तक, यह संख्या 1,372** थी।
- The official said that post the political changes in neighbouring Bangladesh on **August 5, 2024**, there has been a surge in the number of **undocumented migrants exiting the country voluntarily**.  
अधिकारी ने कहा कि पड़ोसी **बांग्लादेश में 5 अगस्त 2024** को राजनीतिक बदलाव के बाद, **स्वेच्छा से देश छोड़ने वाले अवैध प्रवासियों** की संख्या में वृद्धि हुई है।
- The **voluntary exits** are different from the “**pushback**” drive against alleged illegal migrants being pursued by police across the country on the directions of the **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** after the **Pahalgam terror attack on April 22**.  
ये **स्वेच्छा से निकलने वाले प्रवासी** उस “**पुशबैक**” अभियान से अलग हैं, जिसे पुलिस देशभर में **अवैध प्रवासियों के खिलाफ, गृह मंत्रालय (MHA) के निर्देश पर, 22 अप्रैल के पहलगाम आतंकवादी हमले के बाद चला रही है।**
- After the **regime change in Bangladesh last year**, the **MHA** asked police to detect and **deport Bangladeshis** who had illegally entered the country and were living here on **forged documents**.  
पिछले साल **बांग्लादेश में शासन परिवर्तन** के बाद, **MHA** ने पुलिस से कहा कि वे उन **बांग्लादेशियों** का पता लगाए और उन्हें निष्कासित करें, जिन्होंने अवैध रूप से देश में प्रवेश किया और **नकली दस्तावेजों के आधार पर यहां रह रहे थे।**
- The drive assumed momentum after the **Pahalgam terror attack** and the **MHA** asked States to deport the **undocumented migrants** but in most cases “**pushback**” is happening, the latter not defined under law. According to various estimates, around **2,500 people**, thought to be from Bangladesh have been “**pushed back**” across the **eastern border**.  
**पहलगाम आतंकवादी हमला** के बाद यह अभियान गति पकड़ गया और **MHA** ने राज्यों से कहा कि वे **अवैध प्रवासियों** को निष्कासित करें, लेकिन अधिकांश मामलों में “**पुशबैक**” हो रहा है, जिसे कानून में परिभाषित नहीं किया गया है। विभिन्न अनुमानों के अनुसार, लगभग **2,500 लोग**, जो **बांग्लादेश** के होने का संदेह है, उन्हें **पूर्वी सीमा** के पार “**पुशबैक**” किया गया है।
- Rajya Sabha member **Samirul Islam**, from the **Trinamool Congress**, said that at least **seven people from West Bengal** who were “**illegally pushed into Bangladesh by the BSF**” have been brought back because of the **State government's efforts** and after the **families filed habeas corpus petitions in the Calcutta High Court**. The **BSF** has denied the “**pushback**”.  
राज्यसभा सदस्य **समिरुल इस्लाम, त्रिनामूल कांग्रेस** से, ने कहा कि कम से कम **सात लोग पश्चिम बंगाल से**, जिन्हें **BSF द्वारा अवैध रूप से बांग्लादेश भेजा गया**, उन्हें **राज्य सरकार के प्रयासों और परिवारों द्वारा कलकत्ता उच्च न्यायालय में हाबियस कॉर्पस याचिका दाखिल करने के बाद वापस लाया गया। BSF ने “पुशबैक” को खारिज कर दिया है।**
- A senior **BSF official** said that the force, deployed along the **4,096-km border** with Bangladesh has been on a heightened vigil since **August 2024**, with instructions from the **MHA “to not allow anyone into the country without valid documents”**.  
एक वरिष्ठ **BSF अधिकारी** ने कहा कि **बांग्लादेश के साथ 4,096-किमी सीमा पर तैनात बल अगस्त 2024 से सतर्क रहा है, और MHA के निर्देश हैं कि “किसी को भी वैध दस्तावेजों के बिना देश में प्रवेश न करने दें”।**



- “Undocumented migrants leaving the country voluntarily is not a new trend. In the past also, we have caught both Indians and Bangladeshis crossing the border illegally. Post August 2024, however there has been a sharp increase in the number of such people leaving India. If they are not involved in a serious crime, we let them go as keeping them here entails registration of a long legal procedure,” the **BSF official** said.  
"स्वेच्छा से देश छोड़ने वाले अवैध प्रवासी कोई नई प्रवृत्ति नहीं है। अतीत में भी हमने भारतियों और बांग्लादेशियों को अवैध रूप से सीमा पार करते हुए पकड़ा है। अगस्त 2024 के बाद, ऐसे लोगों की संख्या में तेजी से वृद्धि हुई है। यदि वे किसी गंभीर अपराध में शामिल नहीं हैं, तो हम उन्हें जाने देते हैं क्योंकि उन्हें यहां रखने के लिए लंबी कानूनी प्रक्रिया करनी पड़ती है," **BSF अधिकारी** ने कहा।
- In 2018, as many as **17,637 Bangladeshi nationals** were intercepted by the **BSF** along the **eastern border** while **3,342 individuals** were caught in 2023.  
2018 से अब तक, **17,637 बांग्लादेशी नागरिकों** को **पूर्वी सीमा पर BSF** ने रोका, जबकि 2023 में **3,342 लोग** पकड़े गए।

## Home Ministry clears first-ever cadre review of BSF personnel

**GS III: Internal Security**  
**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has approved the first-ever cadre review of **Border Security Force (BSF) personnel**.

The BSF said in a statement on Wednesday that the Government of India had approved the cadre review of the BSF Group B and C employees, spanning from constable to inspector, and its implementation had already begun. “The implementation will cover a total immediate promotions of 23,710 personnel. 8,116 promotion orders in different ranks have already been issued today,” the BSF said.

Since the inception of the force in 1965, this is the first time that such a review is being carried out, a BSF official said. In the absence of the review, many

**Since the inception of the force in 1965, this is the first time that such a review is being carried out**

constables retired from service after just one or two promotions, against the projected five promotions up to the rank of Assistant Commandant in a few cases.

The BSF is deployed along the Pakistan and Bangladesh borders.

**‘Overall morale’**

The review is expected to improve promotion avenues from constable to inspector, providing significant respite to personnel from existing stagnation, thereby enhancing overall morale and professional development of the force’s personnel, the BSF said.

been issued today,” the BSF said.

“इस क्रियान्वयन में कुल **23,710 कर्मियों** के तात्कालिक पदोन्नति शामिल होंगे। आज ही विभिन्न रैंकों में **8,116 पदोन्नति आदेश** जारी किए जा चुके हैं,” **BSF** ने कहा।

- Since the inception of the force in **1965**, this is the first time that such a review is being carried out, a **BSF official** said.

## Home Ministry clears first-ever cadre review of BSF personnel गृह मंत्रालय ने BSF कर्मियों की पहली कैडर समीक्षा को मंजूरी दी

The Union Home Ministry has approved the first-ever cadre review of **Border Security Force (BSF) personnel**.

केंद्र सरकार के गृह मंत्रालय ने पहली बार सीमा सुरक्षा बल (BSF) कर्मियों की कैडर समीक्षा को मंजूरी दी है।

The BSF said in a statement on Wednesday that the Government of India had approved the cadre review of the **BSF Group B and C employees, spanning from constable to inspector**, and its implementation had already begun.

BSF ने बुधवार को एक बयान में कहा कि भारत सरकार ने BSF ग्रुप B और C कर्मचारियों की कैडर समीक्षा, जो कांस्टेबल से इंस्पेक्टर तक फैली है, को मंजूरी दे दी है और इसका क्रियान्वयन पहले ही शुरू हो चुका है।

- “The implementation will cover a total immediate promotion of **23,710 personnel**. **8,116 promotion orders** in different ranks have already



बल की स्थापना के बाद से 1965 में, यह पहली बार है कि ऐसी समीक्षा की जा रही है, एक **BSF अधिकारी** ने कहा।

- In the absence of the review, many constables retired from service after just one or two promotions, against the projected **five promotions** up to the rank of **Assistant Commandant** in a few cases.

समीक्षा के अभाव में, कई कांस्टेबल केवल एक या दो पदोन्नति के बाद सेवा से रिटायर हो गए, जबकि कुछ मामलों में **सहायक कमांडेंट** तक के **पाँच पदोन्नतियों** की योजना थी।

- The **BSF is deployed along the Pakistan and Bangladesh borders**.  
**BSF को पाकिस्तान और बांग्लादेश की सीमाओं पर तैनात किया गया है।**
- **‘Overall morale’**  
**‘सामान्य मनोबल’**
- The review is expected to improve promotion avenues from **constable to inspector**, providing significant respite to personnel from existing stagnation, thereby enhancing **overall morale** and **professional development** of the force’s personnel, the BSF said.

समीक्षा से **कांस्टेबल से इंस्पेक्टर तक** पदोन्नति के अवसरों में सुधार की उम्मीद है, जिससे कर्मियों को वर्तमान जड़ता से महत्वपूर्ण राहत मिलेगी और बल के कर्मियों का **सामान्य मनोबल** और **पेशेवर विकास** बढ़ेगा, **BSF** ने कहा।

## Many reject plastics treaty draft that omits curbs on production

However, the current version receives support from the Indian delegation and petrochemical producers such as Kuwait; about 80 member states expressed disappointment, with some saying that the text should not be used as the basis for talks

GS III: Environment

Jacob Koshy  
GENEVA

On the penultimate day of countries being expected to finalise a treaty on plastic pollution, a majority of countries expressed their disappointment with a draft agreement, which does away with a key demand of countries agreeing to limit the production of plastics.

This version however favours a minority bloc, which includes several Arab states and India, that has consistently advocated for addressing plastic pollution without such cuts on production.

“This represents my best attempts to consolidate various positions that have been expressed through various delegations and groups,” said Chair of proceedings Luis Vayas Valdivieso. “This is however still a proposal that can be discussed.”

Kuwait has made a statement that is largely approving of the text. Naresh Gangwar, who led the Indian delegation said, “We support the statement made by Kuwait. While



**To protect the planet:** People observe an installation by the World Wildlife Fund against plastic waste during the ongoing plastics treaty negotiations in Geneva on Wednesday. AP

there are some improvements that we can suggest we are happy to discuss this.”

“The proposed draft text is entirely unacceptable and we cannot use it as a basis for negotiations,” said Sebastian Rodriguez, the delegate from Colombia who was the first to speak but whose statement received resounding applause.

“Our red lines and that of the majority of the members of this hall have been spat upon. This is not simply about closing a treat-

ty at any cost but about closing a wound that has hurt our oceans and our livelihood. We need a new text. This is something that we cannot work with,” said Juan Carlos Monterrey Gomez, the delegate from Panama. About 80 member states expressed their disapproval on these lines.

### Balance sought

“This text is a milestone that demands some reflection. However there are points that we need some balance between various articles in the text,” said

Abdulrahman Al Gwaiz, the delegate from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. His remarks invited a measure of applause from petrochemical countries and from the members of the Indian delegation.

Independent observers expressed disappointment. “The Chair’s text that dropped today in advance of the plenary is disappointing. The text does not fulfil the mandate of resolution 5/14 as it does not address the full life-cycle of plastics. Chemicals of Concern also does not find

place in the text. There is also no attempt made to reduce plastic dependency through mandating reuse and refill systems. This text is lopsided and will do nothing, even at the level of downstream waste management to address plastic pollution,” said Swathi Seshadri, petrochemicals specialist, Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA).

“The new Chair’s text makes a mockery of a three-year-long consultative process that showed broad support for an ambitious plastics treaty that addresses the full life-cycle of plastics, including production. While there are token references to human rights, and human health, the provisions that follow undermine any and all measures that follow. This is a treaty that all but ensures that nothing will change. It gives in to petrostate and industry demands with weak, voluntary measures that guarantee we continue to produce plastic at increasing levels,” said David Azoulay, Centre for International Environmental Law.



## Many reject plastics treaty draft that omits curbs on production

कई लोग उस प्लास्टिक संधि मसौदे को अस्वीकार करते हैं जिसमें उत्पादन पर प्रतिबंध नहीं है

The current version receives support from the Indian delegation and petrochemical producers such as Kuwait; about 80 member states expressed disappointment, with some saying that the text should not be used as the basis for talks.

वर्तमान संस्करण को भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल और पेट्रोकेमिकल उत्पादकों जैसे कुवैत का समर्थन प्राप्त है; लगभग 80 सदस्य राज्य ने निराशा व्यक्त की, कुछ ने कहा कि इस पाठ का उपयोग वार्ता के आधार के रूप में नहीं किया जाना चाहिए।

- On the penultimate day of countries being expected to finalize a treaty on **plastic pollution**, a majority of countries expressed their disappointment with a draft agreement, which does away with a key demand of countries agreeing to **limit the production of plastics**.  
देशों द्वारा प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण पर संधि को अंतिम रूप देने की उम्मीद वाले प्राक् अंतिम दिन पर, अधिकांश देशों ने मसौदा समझौते के प्रति अपनी निराशा व्यक्त की, जिसने देशों की एक प्रमुख मांग को हटा दिया कि वे प्लास्टिक उत्पादन को सीमित करें।
- This version however favors a minority bloc, which includes several **Arab states** and **India**, that has consistently advocated for addressing **plastic pollution** without such cuts on production.  
यह संस्करण हालांकि एक अल्पसंख्यक समूह के पक्ष में है, जिसमें कई **अरब राज्य** और **भारत** शामिल हैं, जिन्होंने लगातार उत्पादन में कटौती किए बिना प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण से निपटने की वकालत की है।
- “This represents my best attempts to consolidate various positions that have been expressed through various delegations and groups,” said **Chair of proceedings Luis Vayas Valdivieso**. “This is however still a proposal that can be discussed.”  
“यह विभिन्न प्रतिनिधिमंडलों और समूहों के माध्यम से व्यक्त की गई विभिन्न स्थितियों को समेकित करने के मेरे सर्वोत्तम प्रयासों का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है,” कहा **कार्यवाही के अध्यक्ष लुइस वायस वाल्डिविएसो** ने। “हालांकि यह अभी भी एक प्रस्ताव है जिस पर चर्चा की जा सकती है।”
- **Kuwait** has made a statement that is largely approving of the text. **Naresh Gangwar**, who led the **Indian delegation** said, “We support the statement made by Kuwait. While there are some improvements that we can suggest we are happy to discuss this.”  
**कुवैत** ने एक बयान दिया है जो मुख्य रूप से पाठ को स्वीकृति देता है। **नरेश गंगवार**, जिन्होंने **भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल** का नेतृत्व किया, ने कहा, “हम **कुवैत** द्वारा दिए गए बयान का समर्थन करते हैं। जबकि कुछ सुधारों का सुझाव दिया जा सकता है, हम इसे चर्चा करने के लिए तैयार हैं।”
- “The proposed draft text is entirely unacceptable and we cannot use it as a basis for negotiations,” said **Sebastian Rodriguez**, the delegate from **Colombia** who was the first to speak but whose statement received resounding applause.  
“प्रस्तावित मसौदा पाठ पूरी तरह अस्वीकार्य है और हम इसे वार्ता के आधार के रूप में उपयोग नहीं कर सकते,” कहा **सेबास्टियन रोड्रिगुज**, **कोलंबिया** के प्रतिनिधि ने, जो पहले बोलने वाले थे लेकिन उनके बयान को जोरदार तालियों के साथ सराहा गया।



- “Our red lines and that of the majority of the members of this hall have been spat upon. This is not simply about closing a treaty at any cost but about closing a wound that has hurt our oceans and our livelihood. We need a new text. This is something that we cannot work with,” said **Juan Carlos Monterrey Gomez**, the delegate from **Panama**. About **80 member states** expressed their disapproval on these lines.  
“हमारी सीमाओं और इस हॉल के अधिकांश सदस्यों की सीमाओं का अपमान किया गया है। यह केवल किसी भी कीमत पर संधि को बंद करने के बारे में नहीं है, बल्कि उस घाव को बंद करने के बारे में है जिसने हमारे महासागरों और हमारी आजीविका को चोट पहुंचाई है। हमें एक नया पाठ चाहिए। यह कुछ ऐसा है जिसके साथ हम काम नहीं कर सकते,” कहा **जुआन कार्लोस मॉन्टेरी गोमेज़**, **पनामा** के प्रतिनिधि ने। लगभग **80 सदस्य राज्य** ने इन पंक्तियों पर अपनी अस्वीकृति व्यक्त की।
- **Balance sought**  
**संतुलन की तलाश**
- “This text is a milestone that demands some reflection. However there are points that we need some balance between various articles in the text,” said **Abdulrahman Al Gwaiz**, the delegate from the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**. His remarks invited a measure of applause from **petrochemical countries** and from the members of the **Indian delegation**.  
“यह पाठ एक मील का पत्थर है जो कुछ विचार की मांग करता है। हालांकि, ऐसे बिंदु हैं जिनमें हमें पाठ के विभिन्न अनुच्छेदों के बीच कुछ संतुलन की आवश्यकता है,” कहा **अब्दुलरहमान अल ग्वैज़**, **सऊदी अरब** के प्रतिनिधि ने। उनके विचारों को **पेट्रोकेमिकल देशों** और **भारतीय प्रतिनिधिमंडल** के सदस्यों से तालियों की प्रतिक्रिया मिली।
- Independent observers expressed disappointment. “The Chair’s text that dropped today in advance of the plenary is disappointing. The text does not fulfill the mandate of **resolution 5/14** as it does not address the full life-cycle of plastics. **Chemicals of Concern** also does not find place in the text. There is also no attempt made to reduce plastic dependency through mandating reuse and refill systems. This text is lopsided and will do nothing, even at the level of downstream waste management to address plastic pollution,” said **Swathi Seshadri**, petrochemicals specialist, **Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA)**.  
स्वतंत्र पर्यवेक्षकों ने निराशा व्यक्त की। “आज पूर्ण सत्र से पहले जारी किए गए अध्यक्ष के पाठ से निराशा हुई है। यह पाठ **संकल्प 5/14** का मैंडेट पूरा नहीं करता क्योंकि यह प्लास्टिक के पूरे जीवनचक्र को संबोधित नहीं करता। चिंताजनक रसायनों का स्थान भी पाठ में नहीं है। प्लास्टिक निर्भरता को कम करने के लिए पुनः उपयोग और रीफिल सिस्टम को अनिवार्य करने का कोई प्रयास नहीं किया गया है। यह पाठ असंतुलित है और प्लास्टिक प्रदूषण से निपटने के लिए डाउनस्ट्रीम कचरा प्रबंधन के स्तर पर भी कुछ नहीं करेगा,” कहा **स्वाति शेषाद्री**, पेट्रोकेमिकल विशेषज्ञ, **इंस्टिट्यूट फॉर एनर्जी इकॉनॉमिक्स एंड फाइनेंशियल एनालिसिस (IEEFA)**।
- “The new Chair’s text makes a mockery of a three-year-long consultative process that showed broad support for an ambitious plastics treaty that addresses the full life-cycle of plastics, including production. While there are token references to human rights, and human health, the provisions that follow undermine any and all measures that follow. This is a treaty that all but ensures that nothing will change. It gives in to petrostate and industry demands with weak, voluntary measures that guarantee we continue to produce plastic at increasing levels,” said **David Azoulay**, **Centre for International Environmental Law**.  
“नए अध्यक्ष का पाठ तीन साल लंबी परामर्श प्रक्रिया का मजाक बनाता है जिसने प्लास्टिक के पूरे जीवनचक्र, उत्पादन सहित, को संबोधित करने वाली महत्वाकांक्षी प्लास्टिक संधि के लिए व्यापक समर्थन दिखाया। जबकि मानवाधिकारों और मानव स्वास्थ्य का संदर्भ दिया गया है, इसके बाद की व्यवस्थाएं किसी भी उपाय को कमजोर करती हैं। यह एक ऐसी संधि है जो लगभग सुनिश्चित करती है कि कुछ भी नहीं बदलेगा। यह पेट्रोस्टेट और उद्योग की मांगों को कमजोर, स्वैच्छिक उपायों के साथ

मान लेता है, जो सुनिश्चित करता है कि हम प्लास्टिक का उत्पादन लगातार बढ़ाते रहें," कहा **डेविड आजुलाय, सेंटर फॉर इंटरनेशनल एनवायरनमेंटल लॉ**।

# 1950 quake that broke mountains is a portend of things to come

As the **Indian plate moves forward**, earthquakes are a part of its future; yet our current knowledge does not allow us to predict when, where, or how strong the next quake will be; what is known is that the **area is the most seismically active** and could generate a 1950-type earthquake in the future

**Kusala Rajendran**  
C. P. Rajendran

GS I: Geography

**O**n August 15, 1950, India was celebrating its Independence Day. The mood was upbeat throughout the country. Just as celebrations were winding down for the day, a great disaster struck. At around 7:30 pm, an earthquake of magnitude 8.6 – the strongest ever recorded on land – jolted the country's Northeast and some neighbouring areas beyond the border.

According to some reports, the earth shook for about four to eight minutes. Mountains stumbled and buildings fell, causing widespread death and destruction. An English botanist and explorer named Frank Kingdon-Ward was camping at Rima (Zayu) on the day. He reported later: "I was seated writing my diary near the entrance to our tent. Suddenly, after the faintest tremor, there came an appalling noise, and the earth began to shake violently. ... We were immediately thrown to the ground. The lantern too was knocked over and went out instantly."

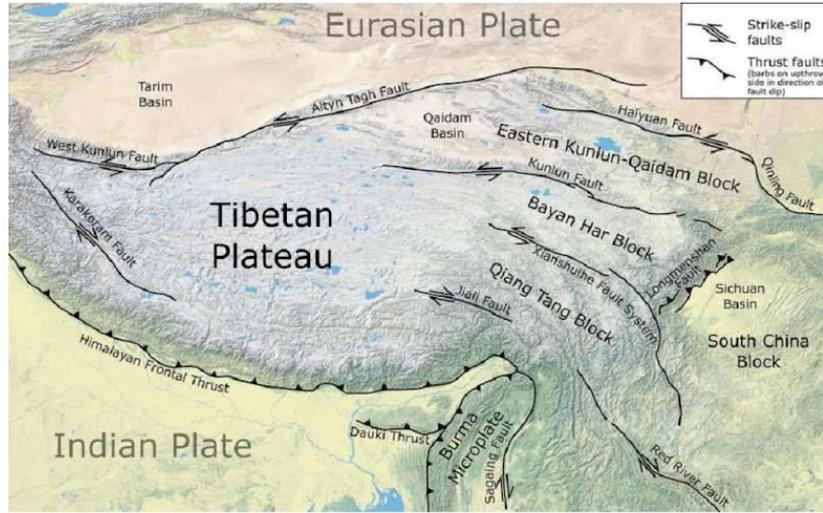
The earthquake was felt over an area of 3 million sq. km across India, Myanmar, and Bangladesh, Tibet, and South China. It wrecked homes, farms, and railway tracks, bridges, and other utilities. A field investigation report described how "rail tracks were torn up and twisted into snake-like patterns", in a vivid demonstration of how the land and structures deform in response to shear waves. On the Indian side alone, more than 1,500 people lost their lives, and 50,000 to 1,00,000 cattle were killed. The quake was felt as far afield as Lhasa and Sichuan, and in Yunnan province in China. In the Medog area of Eastern Tibet, Yedong village slid into the Yarlung Zangbo river, and more than 4,000 casualties were reported from Tibet. Severe damage was wrought in the Sibsagar-Sadiya area of Assam as well.

More destruction was to follow in the days after the earthquake. Many hills had been sheared by the earthquake. Rocky debris falling into the valleys below blocked rivers – before giving way days later, producing flash floods downstream that killed hundreds of people living on the rivers' banks.

On September 9, two weeks after the earthquake, the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru said in a nationwide broadcast on All India Radio: "The Brahmaputra was blocked up for a while, and then broke through, they came down with a rush and a roar; a high wall of water sweeping down and flooding large areas and washing away villages and fields and gardens. ... The remains of villages, animals, including cattle and elephants, and large quantities of timber floated down these raging waters...".

## Revisiting the earthquake

The source of the Great Assam Earthquake lay 40 km west of Rima (Zayu), the village near the India-Tibet border in the Mishmi hills where Kingdon-Ward was camped. The quake occurred along the boundary where the Indian and Eurasian Plates collided, near the eastern terminus of the Himalayas, at a depth of 15 km. The rupture extended from the Mishmi thrust of the Eastern Himalayas to the Himalayan Frontal Thrust of Arunachal Pradesh, completing



The Great Assam Earthquake occurred along the boundary where the Indian and Eurasian Plates collided, near the eastern terminus of the Himalayas, at a depth of 15 km. MIKE NORTON (CC BY-SA)

a curvilinear motion around the mountainous bend (see image above).

As it happened, the shaking also occurred at a time when seismographic networks were expanding worldwide, providing great impetus to earthquake monitoring and the subsequent development of the theory of plate tectonics. It was also the time instrumental monitoring of earthquakes in India had started. India had the Meteorological Department (IMD) set up its first seismological observatory at Alipore in Kolkata district in 1898.

Today, we understand the Great Assam Earthquake happened on a plate boundary formed by the collision of continental plates, like those along other parts of the Himalayan plate boundary. However, it is differentiated by the fact that its source was in the Eastern Himalaya, which is tectonically very complex. GPS data indicate that while the Indian and Eurasian continental plates are converging at about 20 mm/year on average across the Himalayas, in the Eastern Himalayas it ranges from 10 mm



The aftermath of an earthquake in Shigatse City, Tibet on January 7, 2025. REUTERS

**GPS data indicate that while the Indian and Eurasian continental plates are converging at about 20 mm/year on average across the Himalayas, in the Eastern Himalayas it ranges from 10 mm to 38 mm/year**

to 38 mm/year. This variation could very well be due to difficulties in capturing tectonic complexity and differences in data quality. While the main arcuate Himalaya plate boundary resulted from the collision of the Indian and Eurasian plates, the Sunda plate is also involved in the northeastern Himalaya, creating a complex structure.

Due to plate rotation, major structural elements also take sharp turns, and the regional strike shifts from the general NE-SW direction to the NW-SE direction post-collision, forming what geologists call the Eastern Himalayan Syntaxis (EHS). This is where the Great Assam Earthquake likely occurred.

Unlike other Himalayan earthquakes, which have exhibited a thrusting mechanism – where one block of the fault thrusts over the other – the Assam earthquake displayed a component of strike-slip motion, with both blocks sliding past each other along the fault. This suggested it was connected with the EHS trending in the NW-SE direction.

Models also indicate a thrusting component, likely resulting from the propagation of earthquake faulting towards the west, where thrust tectonics are predominant. The possibility of multiple faults being linked to the Assam earthquake is also supported by the distribution of revised aftershock locations, spread over a wide zone east of the main shock epicentre.

Indeed, most researchers believe the earthquake may have started off on the Syntaxial bend while also activating Himalayan thrust faults to the west. Historical documents from the Ahom period (1228-1826) reveal the Northeast

India region experienced earthquakes in 1548, 1596, and 1697 AD, all of uncertain magnitudes. Geological studies have also revealed a major medieval earthquake between 1262 and 1635 AD.

## Quakes of the future

Looking back, the Great Assam Earthquake delivered to scientists a significant lesson on the destructive potential of major earthquakes in the Himalayas. Can a similar earthquake strike Northeast India again? As the Indian plate continues to move forward, earthquakes are an integral part of its future. Yet our current knowledge doesn't allow us to predict when, where, or how strong the next quake will be.

For now, we only know the Central Himalayas are the most potentially active segment and could generate a 1950-type earthquake in the future.

The seismic event also highlighted that we are more vulnerable today, primarily due to the exponential growth of the built environment and urban areas, leaving the landscape to look very different from the way it did 75 years ago.

As we plan for more developmental activities and undertake heavy infrastructural projects, including large dams, in this tectonically fragile area, we must reflect on the images from the 1950 quake.

Finally, the event also proved the Himalayan tectonic segments along the 2,500-km-long stretch are fully capable of producing earthquakes of magnitude 8.6 or higher.

As both China and India prepare to build large hydroelectric projects in the Eastern Himalayan bend, one of the most seismically vulnerable parts of the majestic range, it's clear the road ahead will be long and challenging.

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## 1950 quake that broke mountains is a portend of things to come.

## 1950 का भूकंप जिसने पहाड़ तोड़ दिए, आने वाले समय का संकेत है।

### 1950 Assam Earthquake

#### 1950 असम भूकंप

- On **August 15, 1950**, India was celebrating its **Independence Day**. The mood was upbeat throughout the country. Just as celebrations were winding down for the day, a great disaster struck.

**15 अगस्त 1950** को भारत अपना **स्वतंत्रता दिवस** मना रहा था। पूरे देश में माहौल उत्साहित था। जैसे ही दिन के जश्न खत्म हो रहे थे, एक बड़ा आपदा आ गई।

- At around **7:30 pm**, an earthquake of **magnitude 8.6** — the strongest ever recorded on land — jolted the country's **Northeast** and some neighbouring areas beyond the border.

लगभग **शाम 7:30 बजे**, **8.6 तीव्रता** का भूकंप — जो भूमि पर अब तक दर्ज सबसे शक्तिशाली था — देश के **उत्तर-पूर्व** और सीमा के पार कुछ पड़ोसी क्षेत्रों में आया।

- According to some reports, the earth shook for about **four to eight minutes**. Mountains stumbled and buildings fell, causing widespread death and destruction. कुछ रिपोर्टों के अनुसार, धरती लगभग **चार से आठ मिनट** तक हिली। पहाड़ गिर गए और इमारतें ढह गईं, जिससे व्यापक मृत्यु और विनाश हुआ।
- An English botanist and explorer **Frank Kingdon-Ward** was camping at **Rima (Zayu)** on the day. He reported later: "I was seated writing my diary near the entrance to our tent. Suddenly, after the faintest tremor, there came an appalling noise, and the earth began to shake violently. ... We were immediately thrown to the ground. The lantern too was knocked over and went out instantly."

एक अंग्रेज वनस्पतिशास्त्री और खोजकर्ता **फ्रैंक किंगडन-वॉर्ड** उस दिन **रीमा (ज़ायू)** में डेरा डाले हुए थे। उन्होंने बाद में रिपोर्ट किया: "मैं हमारे तंबू के प्रवेश द्वार के पास अपनी डायरी लिख रहा था। अचानक, हल्की सी कंपन के बाद, एक भयानक आवाज आई और धरती जोर से हिलने लगी। ... हम तुरंत जमीन पर गिर गए। लालटेन भी गिर गई और तुरंत बुझ गई।"

- The **earthquake was felt over an area of 3 million sq. km across India, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Tibet, and South China.**

भूकंप **30 लाख वर्ग किमी** के क्षेत्र में महसूस किया गया, जिसमें **भारत, म्यांमार, बांग्लादेश, तिब्बत और दक्षिण चीन** शामिल थे।

- It wrecked homes, farms, and railway tracks, bridges, and other utilities. A field investigation report described how "rail tracks were torn up and twisted into snake-like patterns".

इसने घरों, खेतों, रेलवे ट्रैक, पुलों और अन्य सुविधाओं को नष्ट कर दिया। एक फील्ड जांच रिपोर्ट ने बताया कि कैसे "रेलवे ट्रैक उखड़ गए और सांप जैसी आकृतियों में मरोड़ गए।"

- On the Indian side alone, more than **1,500 people** lost their lives, and **50,000 to 1,00,000 cattle** were killed.

केवल भारतीय पक्ष में ही **1,500 से अधिक लोग** मारे गए, और **50,000 से 1,00,000 मवेशी** मारे गए।

- The quake was felt as far afield as **Lhasa** and **Sichuan**, and in **Yunnan province** in China.

भूकंप **ल्हासा, सिचुआन** और चीन के **युन्नान प्रांत** तक महसूस किया गया।



- In the **Medog** area of **Eastern Tibet**, **Yedong** village slid into the **Yarlung Zangbo** river, and more than **4,000 casualties** were reported from Tibet.  
पूर्वी तिब्बत के मेडोग क्षेत्र में, येडोंग गांव यारलुंग जंगबो नदी में समा गया, और तिब्बत से 4,000 से अधिक हताहतों की सूचना मिली।
- Severe damage was wrought in the **Sibsagar-Sadiya** area of **Assam** as well.  
असम के शिवसागर-सादिया क्षेत्र में भी भारी नुकसान हुआ।
- More destruction was to follow in the days after the earthquake. Many hills had been sheared by the earthquake. Rocky debris falling into the valleys blocked rivers — before giving way days later, producing flash floods downstream that killed hundreds.  
भूकंप के बाद आने वाले दिनों में और अधिक विनाश होना बाकी था। भूकंप से कई पहाड़ टूट गए थे। घाटियों में गिरने वाला पथरीला मलबा नदियों को रोक देता था — जो कुछ दिनों बाद टूट गया, जिससे नीचे की ओर अचानक बाढ़ आई और सैकड़ों लोग मारे गए।
- On **September 9**, two weeks after the earthquake, **Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru** said in a nationwide **All India Radio** broadcast: “The Brahmaputra was blocked up for a while, and then broke through, ... a high wall of water sweeping down and flooding large areas ...”.  
9 सितंबर को, भूकंप के दो हफ्ते बाद, प्रधानमंत्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू ने आकाशवाणी पर देशव्यापी प्रसारण में कहा: “ब्रह्मपुत्र कुछ समय के लिए रुक गया था, और फिर टूटकर आया, ... पानी की ऊंची दीवार नीचे आई और बड़े-बड़े इलाकों में बाढ़ ला दी...”

### Revisiting the earthquake

#### भूकंप की पुनर्समीक्षा

- The source of the **Great Assam Earthquake** lay **40 km west of Rima (Zayu)**, the village near the **India-Tibet border** in the **Mishmi hills** where **Kingdon-Ward** was camped.  
महान असम भूकंप का स्रोत रीमा (ज़ायु) से 40 किमी पश्चिम में था, जो भारत-तिब्बत सीमा के पास मिशमी पहाड़ियों में स्थित गांव है, जहां किंगडन-वॉर्ड डेरा डाले हुए थे।
- The quake occurred along the boundary where the **Indian and Eurasian Plates** collided, near the **eastern terminus of the Himalayas**, at a **depth of 15 km**.  
यह भूकंप उस सीमा पर आया जहां भारतीय और यूरेशियन प्लेटें टकराती हैं, हिमालय के पूर्वी छोर के पास, 15 किमी गहराई में।
- The rupture extended from the **Mishmi thrust** of the **Eastern Himalayas** to the **Himalayan Frontal Thrust** of **Arunachal Pradesh**, completing a **curvilinear motion** around the mountainous bend.  
यह फॉल्ट पूर्वी हिमालय के मिशमी थ्रस्ट से लेकर अरुणाचल प्रदेश के हिमालयन फ्रंटल थ्रस्ट तक फैला, जो पहाड़ी मोड़ के चारों ओर एक वक्राकार गति बनाता है।
- As it happened, the shaking also occurred at a time when **seismographic networks** were expanding worldwide, providing great impetus to **earthquake monitoring** and the subsequent development of the **theory of plate tectonics**.  
यह घटना उस समय हुई जब भूकंपीय नेटवर्क विश्वभर में विस्तार कर रहे थे, जिससे भूकंप निगरानी और बाद में प्लेट विवर्तनिकी सिद्धांत के विकास को बड़ी गति मिली।
- It was also the time **instrumental monitoring of earthquakes** in India had started. **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** set up its **first seismological observatory** at **Alipore in Kolkata** in **1898**.  
यह वह समय भी था जब भारत में उपकरण आधारित भूकंप निगरानी शुरू हुई थी। भारत मौसम विज्ञान विभाग (IMD) ने 1898 में कोलकाता के अलीपुर में अपना पहला भूकंप वेधशाला स्थापित किया।
- Today, we understand the **Great Assam Earthquake** happened on a **plate boundary** formed by the collision of **continental plates**, like those along other parts



of the **Himalayan plate boundary**.

आज हम समझते हैं कि **महान असम भूकंप महाद्वीपीय प्लेटों** के टकराव से बनी **प्लेट सीमा** पर आया था, जैसे **हिमालयी प्लेट सीमा** के अन्य हिस्सों में होता है।

- However, it is differentiated by the fact that its source was in the **Eastern Himalaya**, which is **tectonically very complex**.

हालांकि, इसकी विशेषता यह थी कि इसका स्रोत **पूर्वी हिमालय** में था, जो **टेक्टोनिक रूप से बहुत जटिल** है।

- **GPS data** indicate that while the **Indian and Eurasian continental plates** are converging at about **20 mm/year** on average across the Himalayas, in the **Eastern Himalayas** it ranges from **10 mm to 38 mm/year**.

**GPS आंकड़े** बताते हैं कि **भारतीय और यूरेशियन महाद्वीपीय प्लेटें** पूरे हिमालय में औसतन **20 मिमी/वर्ष** की दर से नजदीक आ रही हैं, जबकि **पूर्वी हिमालय** में यह **10 मिमी से 38 मिमी/वर्ष** तक है।

- This variation could be due to **difficulties in capturing tectonic complexity** and **differences in data quality**.

यह अंतर **टेक्टोनिक जटिलता को समझने में कठिनाइयों** और **डेटा गुणवत्ता में भिन्नताओं** के कारण हो सकता है।

- While the main **arcuate Himalaya plate boundary** resulted from the collision of the **Indian and Eurasian plates**, the **Sunda plate** is also involved in the **northeastern Himalaya**, creating a **complex structure**.

**मुख्य वक्राकार हिमालयी प्लेट सीमा भारतीय और यूरेशियन प्लेटों** के टकराव से बनी है, लेकिन **सुंडा प्लेट** भी **उत्तर-पूर्वी हिमालय** में शामिल है, जिससे **जटिल संरचना** बनती है।

- Due to **plate rotation**, major **structural elements** also take sharp turns, and the **regional strike** shifts from **NE-SW** to **NW-SE** post-collision, forming the **Eastern Himalayan Syntaxis (EHS)**.

**प्लेट घुमाव** के कारण **प्रमुख संरचनात्मक तत्व** भी तीखे मोड़ लेते हैं, और टकराव के बाद **क्षेत्रीय स्ट्राइक उत्तर-पूर्व-दक्षिण-पश्चिम से उत्तर-पश्चिम-दक्षिण-पूर्व** में बदल जाती है, जिससे **पूर्वी हिमालयी सिंटेक्सिस (EHS)** बनती है।

- This is where the **Great Assam Earthquake** likely occurred.

संभवतः यहीं **महान असम भूकंप** आया था।

- Unlike other **Himalayan earthquakes**, which exhibit a **thrusting mechanism**, the **Assam earthquake** displayed a component of **strike-slip motion**, with both blocks sliding past each other.

अन्य **हिमालयी भूकंपों** के विपरीत, जो **थ्रस्टिंग मैकेनिज्म** दिखाते हैं, **असम भूकंप** में **स्ट्राइक-स्लिप गति** का तत्व था, जिसमें दोनों ब्लॉक एक-दूसरे के पास से खिसक गए।

- This suggested it was connected with the **EHS** trending in the **NW-SE direction**.

इससे संकेत मिला कि यह **उत्तर-पश्चिम-दक्षिण-पूर्व दिशा** में फैले **EHS** से जुड़ा था।

- Models also indicate a **thrusting component**, likely resulting from the propagation of earthquake faulting towards the **west**, where **thrust tectonics** are predominant.

मॉडल यह भी बताते हैं कि इसमें **थ्रस्टिंग तत्व** था, जो संभवतः **भूकंप फॉल्ट के पश्चिम** की ओर फैलाव के कारण था, जहां **थ्रस्ट टेक्टोनिक्स** प्रमुख हैं।

- The possibility of **multiple faults** being linked to the Assam earthquake is also supported by the **distribution of revised aftershock locations**, spread over a wide zone **east of the main shock epicentre**.

**कई फॉल्ट्स** के असम भूकंप से जुड़े होने की संभावना को **संशोधित आफ्टरशॉक स्थानों के वितरण** से भी समर्थन मिलता है, जो मुख्य भूकंप केंद्र के **पूर्व** में एक विस्तृत क्षेत्र में फैले थे।

- Most researchers believe the earthquake may have started off on the **Syntaxial bend** while also activating **Himalayan thrust faults** to the **west**.

अधिकांश शोधकर्ताओं का मानना है कि भूकंप संभवतः **सिंटेक्सियल मोड़** पर शुरू हुआ और साथ ही **पश्चिम** में **हिमालयी थ्रस्ट फॉल्ट्स** को सक्रिय किया।



- Historical documents from the **Ahom period (1228-1826)** reveal the **Northeast India** region experienced earthquakes in **1548, 1596, and 1697 AD**, all of uncertain magnitudes.  
अहोम काल (1228-1826) के ऐतिहासिक दस्तावेज बताते हैं कि पूर्वोत्तर भारत में 1548, 1596, और 1697 ईस्वी में भूकंप आए थे, जिनकी तीव्रता अनिश्चित थी।
- Geological studies have also revealed a major **medieval earthquake** between **1262 and 1635 AD**.  
भूगर्भीय अध्ययनों से यह भी पता चला है कि 1262 और 1635 ईस्वी के बीच एक बड़ा मध्यकालीन भूकंप आया था।

### Quakes of the future भविष्य के भूकंप

- Looking back, the **Great Assam Earthquake** delivered to scientists a significant lesson on the destructive potential of major earthquakes in the **Himalayas**.  
पीछे मुड़कर देखने पर, महान असम भूकंप ने वैज्ञानिकों को हिमालय में बड़े भूकंपों की विनाशकारी क्षमता पर एक महत्वपूर्ण सबक दिया।
- Can a similar earthquake strike **Northeast India** again? As the **Indian plate** continues to move forward, earthquakes are an integral part of its future.  
क्या ऐसा ही भूकंप फिर से पूर्वोत्तर भारत को झकझोर सकता है? जैसे-जैसे भारतीय प्लेट आगे बढ़ती है, भूकंप उसके भविष्य का अभिन्न हिस्सा हैं।
- Yet our current knowledge doesn't allow us to predict when, where, or how strong the next quake will be.  
फिर भी हमारा वर्तमान ज्ञान हमें यह अनुमान लगाने की अनुमति नहीं देता कि अगला भूकंप कब, कहां या कितनी तीव्रता का होगा।
- For now, we only know the **Central Himalayas** are the most potentially active segment and could generate a **1950-type earthquake** in the future.  
फिलहाल, हम केवल यह जानते हैं कि मध्य हिमालय सबसे संभावित सक्रिय क्षेत्र है और भविष्य में 1950 जैसे भूकंप को उत्पन्न कर सकता है।
- The seismic event also highlighted that we are more vulnerable today, primarily due to the exponential growth of the **built environment** and **urban areas**, leaving the landscape to look very different from the way it did **75 years ago**.  
इस भूकंपीय घटना ने यह भी उजागर किया कि हम आज अधिक संवेदनशील हैं, मुख्य रूप से निर्मित वातावरण और शहरी क्षेत्रों की तीव्र वृद्धि के कारण, जिससे परिदृश्य 75 साल पहले की तुलना में बहुत अलग दिखता है।
- As we plan for more **developmental activities** and undertake heavy **infrastructural projects**, including **large dams**, in this **tectonically fragile** area, we must reflect on the images from the **1950 quake**.  
जब हम इस टेक्टोनिक रूप से नाजुक क्षेत्र में अधिक विकासात्मक गतिविधियों और बड़े बांधों सहित भारी बुनियादी ढांचा परियोजनाओं की योजना बनाते हैं, तो हमें 1950 के भूकंप की तस्वीरों पर विचार करना चाहिए।
- Finally, the event also proved the **Himalayan tectonic segments** along the **2,500-km-long** stretch are fully capable of producing earthquakes of magnitude **8.6 or higher**.  
अंततः, इस घटना ने यह भी साबित किया कि 2,500 किलोमीटर लंबे क्षेत्र में फैले हिमालयी टेक्टोनिक खंड 8.6 या उससे अधिक तीव्रता के भूकंप उत्पन्न करने में पूरी तरह सक्षम हैं।



- As both **China** and **India** prepare to build large **hydroelectric projects** in the **Eastern Himalayan bend**, one of the most seismically vulnerable parts of the range, it's clear the road ahead will be long and challenging.  
जैसे ही **चीन** और **भारत पूर्वी हिमालयी मोड़** में, जो इस श्रृंखला के सबसे भूकंपीय रूप से संवेदनशील हिस्सों में से एक है, बड़े **जलविद्युत परियोजनाओं** के निर्माण की तैयारी कर रहे हैं, यह स्पष्ट है कि आगे का रास्ता लंबा और चुनौतीपूर्ण होगा।



Elephants in Tsavo West National Park in Taita-Taveta County, Kenya, on August 7, 2025. AP

## Kenyan farmers use bees, sesame to keep pillaging elephants away

Associated Press

GS III: Environment

For farmers in the Taita hills in southern Kenya, elephants are a menace: they raid crops and will occasionally injure or even kill people.

Farmer Richard Shika, 68, has had some close encounters. "One time, I was trying to chase away an elephant that was in my maize field, but it turned and charged at me," Shika remembers. "It stopped when it was right in front of me, and I managed to jump out of the way."

He feels lucky to be alive. Almost exactly two years ago, local media reported that a three-year-old girl had been trampled to death by an elephant in Taita Taveta county, her mother injured.

The area where Shika has his farm is almost surrounded by Kenya's biggest National Park. The border of Tsavo East National Park is less than 10 km to the east, and Tsavo West curves around to the north, west, and south. The parks have always been unfenced, allowing animals to migrate. Increasingly, that puts them in the path of humans.

"The places and infrastructure that we humans develop hinder the migratory routes and paths that elephants used to take," explains Yuka Luvonga, who researches human-elephant coexistence for conservation organization Save The Elephants.

Elephants eat about 150 kg of vegetation a day, so keeping them off farms is tricky, especially if forage is scarce elsewhere.

"Elephants are clever creatures," says Shika. "They will try touching a fence, and once they realise that it is not

**Farmers have hung hives from wires. If an elephant touches the wire, the hives are rocked, disturbing the bees. It's an army of tiny guards that keeps elephants away from farms**

electrified, they charge through."

If farmers try to chase them off, as Shika did, the elephants will sometimes turn and defend themselves. The Kenya Wildlife Service and conservation organisations tracking human-elephant conflict estimate that 30-35 people are killed every year in elephant-related incidents across Kenya.

Communities will sometimes retaliate by spearing or poisoning elephants, but there are other solutions, as farmers here have found.

One of them is bees.

"Elephants don't like getting stung by bees, so they keep away from areas where hives are," Shika says.

With help from Save The Elephants, Shika is one of 50 farmers who have hung beehives from wires between poles around their farms. If an elephant touches the wire, the hives are rocked, disturbing the bees. It's an army of tiny security guards that keeps elephants well away from the farm.

Changing crops can also make a difference. Elephants love maize and watermelons. But sesame? Blegh.

Sesame plants produce a scent that actively repels elephants, so for 70-year-old Gertrude Jackim, swapping out maize and green grams for sesame was a no-brainer. "Look at me, I'm ageing, so I can't fend off the elephants or chase them away," she says.

She is one of 100 farmers who have been supported to adopt sesame seed production. The change was urgently needed, she says. "Over the years, the elephants have become too destructive."

Farming practices that deter elephants – like beekeeping and growing sesame – have made coexistence much easier for farmers like Shika and Jackim.

Conservationists hope that in the long run, this will win hearts and minds in an area where human-elephant conflict had reached worrying levels.

the way."

**Kenyan farmers use bees, sesame to keep pillaging elephants away**

**केन्याई किसान लूटपाट करने वाले हाथियों को दूर रखने के लिए मधुमक्खियों और तिल का उपयोग करते हैं**

**Human-Elephant Conflict in Taita Hills, Kenya**  
**ताइता हिल्स, केन्या में मानव-हाथी संघर्ष**

- For farmers in the **Taita hills** in **southern Kenya**, **elephants** are a menace: they raid crops and will occasionally injure or even kill people.

**दक्षिणी केन्या के ताइता हिल्स में किसानों के लिए हाथी एक खतरा हैं: वे फसलों को नष्ट करते हैं और कभी-कभी लोगों को घायल या मार भी देते हैं।**

- Farmer **Richard Shika, 68**, has had some close encounters. "One time, I was trying to chase away an elephant that was in my maize field, but it turned and charged at me," Shika remembers. "It stopped when it was right in front of me, and I managed to jump out of



किसान रिचर्ड शिका, 68, का हाथियों से कई बार सामना हुआ है। “एक बार, मैं अपने मक्का के खेत में आए हाथी को भगाने की कोशिश कर रहा था, लेकिन वह पलटकर मेरी ओर दौड़ा,” शिका याद करते हैं। “वह मेरे बिलकुल सामने रुक गया, और मैं किसी तरह रास्ते से कूदकर बच गया।”

- He feels lucky to be alive. Almost exactly **two years ago**, local media reported that a **three-year-old girl** had been trampled to death by an elephant in **Taita Taveta county**, her mother injured.

वह खुद को जीवित रहने के लिए भाग्यशाली मानते हैं। लगभग ठीक **दो साल पहले**, स्थानीय मीडिया ने रिपोर्ट किया था कि **तीन वर्षीय लड़की** को **ताइता टावेटा काउंटी** में एक हाथी ने कुचलकर मार डाला था, और उसकी मां घायल हो गई थी।

- The area where Shika has his farm is almost surrounded by **Kenya's biggest National Park**. The border of **Tsavo East National Park** is less than **10 km** to the east, and **Tsavo West** curves around to the north, west, and south. The parks have always been **unfenced**, allowing animals to migrate. Increasingly, that puts them in the path of humans.

जहां शिका का खेत है, वह क्षेत्र लगभग **केन्या के सबसे बड़े राष्ट्रीय उद्यान** से घिरा हुआ है। **त्सावो ईस्ट नेशनल पार्क** की सीमा पूर्व में **10 किमी** से कम दूरी पर है, और **त्सावो वेस्ट** उत्तर, पश्चिम और दक्षिण में फैला है। पार्क हमेशा **बिना बाड़** के रहे हैं, जिससे जानवरों को प्रवास करने की अनुमति मिलती है। अब यह उन्हें तेजी से मानव बस्तियों के रास्ते में ला देता है।

- “The places and infrastructure that we humans develop hinder the migratory routes and paths that elephants used to take,” explains **Yuka Luvonga**, who researches **human-elephant coexistence** for conservation organization **Save The Elephants**.

“वे स्थान और बुनियादी ढांचा, जो हम मनुष्य विकसित करते हैं, उन प्रवासी मार्गों और रास्तों को बाधित करते हैं जिन पर हाथी पहले चलते थे,” बताती हैं **युका लुवोंगा**, जो संरक्षण संगठन **सेव द एलीफेंट्स** के लिए **मानव-हाथी सहअस्तित्व** पर शोध करती हैं।

- Elephants eat about **150 kg** of vegetation a day, so keeping them off farms is tricky, especially if forage is scarce elsewhere.

हाथी प्रतिदिन लगभग **150 किलोग्राम** वनस्पति खाते हैं, इसलिए उन्हें खेतों से दूर रखना कठिन है, खासकर जब अन्य जगहों पर चारा कम हो।

- “Elephants are clever creatures,” says Shika. “They will try touching a fence, and once they realise that it is not electrified, they charge through.”

“हाथी चतुर जीव हैं,” शिका कहते हैं। “वे बाड़ को छूने की कोशिश करेंगे, और जैसे ही उन्हें पता चलता है कि उसमें बिजली नहीं है, वे उसे तोड़ते हुए निकल जाते हैं।”

- If farmers try to chase them off, as Shika did, the elephants will sometimes turn and defend themselves. The **Kenya Wildlife Service** and conservation organisations tracking **human-elephant conflict** estimate that **30–35 people** are killed every year in elephant-related incidents across Kenya.

यदि किसान उन्हें भगाने की कोशिश करते हैं, जैसा कि शिका ने किया, तो हाथी कभी-कभी पलटकर अपनी रक्षा करते हैं। **केन्या वाइल्डलाइफ सर्विस** और **मानव-हाथी संघर्ष** का ट्रैक रखने वाले संरक्षण संगठन अनुमान लगाते हैं कि केन्या में हर साल हाथी-संबंधी घटनाओं में **30–35 लोग** मारे जाते हैं।

- Communities will sometimes retaliate by spearing or poisoning elephants, but there are other solutions, as farmers here have found.

समुदाय कभी-कभी हाथियों को भाला मारकर या ज़हर देकर मारते हैं, लेकिन यहां के किसानों ने अन्य समाधान भी खोजे हैं।

- One of them is **bees**. “Elephants don’t like getting stung by bees, so they keep away from areas where hives are,” Shika says.

उनमें से एक है **मधुमक्खियां**। “हाथियों को मधुमक्खियों के डंक पसंद नहीं होते, इसलिए वे छत्तों वाले इलाकों से दूर रहते हैं,” शिका कहते हैं।

- With help from **Save The Elephants**, Shika is one of **50 farmers** who have hung beehives from wires between poles around their farms. If an elephant touches the wire, the hives are rocked, disturbing the bees. It’s an army of tiny security guards



that keeps elephants well away from the farm.

**सेव द एलीफेंट्स** की मदद से, शिका उन **50 किसानों** में से एक हैं जिन्होंने अपने खेतों के चारों ओर खंभों के बीच तारों से मधुमक्खी के छत्ते लटकाए हैं। यदि हाथी तार को छूता है, तो छत्ते हिलते हैं और मधुमक्खियां परेशान हो जाती हैं। यह छोटे-छोटे सुरक्षा गार्डों की एक सेना है जो हाथियों को खेत से दूर रखती है।

- Changing crops can also make a difference. Elephants love **maize** and **watermelons**. But **sesame**? Blegh.  
फसल बदलना भी फर्क ला सकता है। हाथियों को **मक्का** और **तरबूज** पसंद हैं। लेकिन **तिल**? नहीं।
- Sesame plants produce a scent that actively repels elephants, so for **70-year-old Gertrude Jackim**, swapping out maize and green grams for sesame was a no-brainer. "Look at me, I'm ageing, so I can't fend off the elephants or chase them away," she says.  
तिल के पौधे एक ऐसी गंध छोड़ते हैं जो हाथियों को सक्रिय रूप से दूर भगाती है, इसलिए **70 वर्षीय गर्ट्रूड जैकिम** के लिए मक्का और हरी मूंग की जगह तिल लगाना आसान निर्णय था। "मुझे देखो, मैं बूढ़ी हो रही हूँ, इसलिए मैं हाथियों से लड़ या उन्हें भगा नहीं सकती," वह कहती हैं।
- She is one of **100 farmers** who have been supported to adopt sesame seed production. The change was urgently needed, she says. "Over the years, the elephants have become too destructive."  
वह उन **100 किसानों** में से एक हैं जिन्हें तिल उत्पादन अपनाने में सहायता मिली है। यह बदलाव तुरंत जरूरी था, वह कहती हैं। "सालों में, हाथी बहुत विनाशकारी हो गए हैं।"
- Farming practices that deter elephants — like **beekeeping** and growing **sesame** — have made coexistence much easier for farmers like Shika and Jackim.  
हाथियों को दूर रखने वाली खेती की प्रथाएं — जैसे **मधुमक्खी पालन** और **तिल की खेती** — ने शिका और जैकिम जैसे किसानों के लिए सहअस्तित्व को बहुत आसान बना दिया है।
- Conservationists hope that in the long run, this will win hearts and minds in an area where **human-elephant conflict** has reached worrying levels.  
संरक्षणवादियों को उम्मीद है कि लंबे समय में, यह उस क्षेत्र में लोगों का दिल और दिमाग जीत लेगा, जहां **मानव-हाथी संघर्ष** चिंताजनक स्तर पर पहुंच गया था।

Answers

1. Theory of **GS III: S&T** **turn**  
without gaining mass - **Ans: Prologiston**
2. Medium presumed to allow light to travel in space - **Ans: Aether; special relativity**
3. Idea that allowed life to arise from mud, meat, grain - **Ans: Spontaneous generation**
4. Theory overturned by palaeomagnetic data, seafloor spreading - **Ans: Continental drift**
5. Scientist who, with James Dewar, found absolute zero - **Ans: Heike Kamerlingh Onnes**
- Visual: **Deferent**

## Quiz

Medium presumed to allow light to travel in space – **Ans: Aether; special relativity**

वह माध्यम जो माना जाता है कि अंतरिक्ष में प्रकाश को यात्रा करने की अनुमति देता है – उत्तर: ऐथर; विशेष सापेक्षता

• Idea that allowed life to arise from mud, meat, grain – **Ans: Spontaneous generation**

वह विचार जिसने अनुमति दी कि **जीवन की उत्पत्ति** कीचड़, मांस, अनाज से हो सके – उत्तर: स्वाभाविक उत्पत्ति

• Theory overturned by **palaeomagnetic data, seafloor spreading** – **Ans: Continental drift**

वह सिद्धांत जिसे **प्राग-चुंबकीय डेटा** और **समुद्री तल फैलाव** द्वारा उलट दिया गया – उत्तर: **महाद्वीपीय प्रवाह**

• Scientist who, with **James Dewar**, found

**absolute zero** – **Ans: Heike Kamerlingh Onnes**

वह वैज्ञानिक जिन्होंने **जेम्स डिवार** के साथ मिलकर **पूर्ण शून्य** खोजा – उत्तर: **हाइके कैमरलिंग**



ऑननेस

GS III- Inflation

## Limited gains

A temporary blip in inflation will help, but not by much

From having to deal with an inflation level higher than the RBI's comfort band of 2%-6% just two years ago, the government is now in the relatively more comfortable space of inflation coming in lower than that band. July's retail inflation of 1.55%, the lowest since June 2017, was made possible almost entirely by the contraction in food prices. This is particularly significant because the statistical base effect was low in July. That is, food inflation in July 2024 was itself at a 13-month low. A contraction in prices this July over that figure implies a real reduction in prices rather than a statistical anomaly. The consensus among economists is that this will continue due to improved sowing, a good monsoon, and a favourable base effect as inflation had surged again in the latter half of last year. The other positive was that core inflation, which removes the effect of fuel and food, fell to 4.1%, which is the RBI's target. On balance, the outlook for inflation looks good, especially due to the monsoon's progress. There is some risk, especially if India decides to switch away from Russian oil and opts for the somewhat more expensive Gulf oil. But this is unlikely given the government's assertions that it will prioritise India's interests. In any case, the Trump-Putin meet could potentially render the latest tariff obstacles inconsequential.

The RBI expects inflation to pick up only from January 2026. But there is no time for complacency. While India is far from being in a persistent low-inflation, low-growth stagnation, it is staring at a growth slowdown. The latest growth in the Index of Industrial Production was at a 10-month low, with capital and consumer goods activity anaemic. Growth in GST revenue slowed to single-digits in June and July. The contraction in gross direct tax collections this financial year is also concerning. Car sales to dealers dropped to an 18-month low in June. UPI transactions, touted in the past as a sign of buoyant economic activity, fell as compared to the previous month thrice so far in 2025. The RBI has retained its forecast of 6.5% growth this financial year, which looks optimistic. Even if the U.S.'s additional 25% tariffs are removed, the initial 25% will themselves likely reduce India's growth by 0.2 percentage points. India's growth is not robust enough for it to be blasé about such a loss. Structural problems remain, demand is still weak, and a temporary dip in inflation is in itself not going to help much.

effect as inflation had surged again in the latter half of last year.

अर्थशास्त्रियों के बीच सहमति है कि यह प्रवृत्ति बेहतर बुआई, अच्छे मानसून और अनुकूल आधार प्रभाव के कारण जारी रहेगी, क्योंकि पिछले वर्ष के उत्तरार्ध में मुद्रास्फीति फिर से बढ़ गई थी।

- The other positive was that **core inflation**, which removes the effect of fuel and food, fell to **4.1%**, which is the **RBI's target**.

एक और सकारात्मक पहलू यह था कि **ईंधन और खाद्य** को हटाकर मापी गई कोर मुद्रास्फीति **4.1%** पर आ गई, जो **RBI का लक्ष्य** है।

- On balance, the outlook for inflation looks good, especially due to the **monsoon's progress**.

कुल मिलाकर, **मानसून की प्रगति** के कारण मुद्रास्फीति का परिदृश्य अच्छा दिख रहा है।

- There is some risk, especially if India decides to switch away from **Russian oil** and opts for the somewhat more expensive **Gulf oil**.

कुछ जोखिम है, खासकर यदि भारत **रूसी तेल** से हटकर अपेक्षाकृत महंगे **गल्फ तेल** का चयन करता है।

## Limited gains सीमित लाभ

- A **temporary blip in inflation** will help, but not by much. **महंगाई में अस्थायी गिरावट मदद करेगी, लेकिन ज्यादा नहीं।**

## Inflation and Growth Outlook मुद्रास्फीति और विकास परिदृश्य

- From having to deal with an **inflation level higher than the RBI's comfort band of 2%-6%** just two years ago, the government is now in the relatively more comfortable space of inflation coming in lower than that band.

केवल दो वर्ष पहले तक **RBI के 2%-6% के आरामदायक दायरे** से अधिक **मुद्रास्फीति** से जूझने के बाद, अब सरकार अपेक्षाकृत अधिक आरामदायक स्थिति में है क्योंकि मुद्रास्फीति उस दायरे से कम हो गई है।

- **July's retail inflation of 1.55%**, the lowest since **June 2017**, was made possible almost entirely by the contraction in **food prices**.

**जुलाई की खुदरा मुद्रास्फीति 1.55%**, जो **जून 2017** के बाद सबसे कम है, लगभग पूरी तरह से **खाद्य कीमतों** में गिरावट के कारण संभव हुई।

- This is particularly significant because the **statistical base effect** was low in July.

यह विशेष रूप से महत्वपूर्ण है क्योंकि जुलाई में **सांख्यिकीय आधार प्रभाव** कम था।

- That is, **food inflation in July 2024** was itself at a **13-month low**.

यानी **जुलाई 2024 में खाद्य मुद्रास्फीति** पहले ही **13 माह के निचले स्तर** पर थी।

- A contraction in prices this July over that figure implies a **real reduction in prices** rather than a **statistical anomaly**.

इस जुलाई में कीमतों में उस आंकड़े की तुलना में गिरावट का मतलब है **कीमतों में वास्तविक कमी**, न कि केवल **सांख्यिकीय असमान्यता**।

- The consensus among **economists** is that this will continue due to **improved sowing**, a **good monsoon**, and a **favourable base**



- But this is unlikely given the government's assertions that it will **prioritise India's interests**.  
लेकिन सरकार के इस दावे को देखते हुए कि वह **भारत के हितों को प्राथमिकता** देगी, यह संभावना कम है।
- In any case, the **Trump-Putin meet** could potentially render the latest **tariff obstacles** inconsequential.  
किसी भी स्थिति में, **ट्रंप-पुतिन मुलाकात** हालिया **शुल्क बाधाओं** को महत्वहीन बना सकती है।

### Economic Risks and Growth Concerns आर्थिक जोखिम और विकास संबंधी चिंताएँ

- The **RBI** expects inflation to pick up only from **January 2026**.  
**RBI** को उम्मीद है कि मुद्रास्फीति केवल **जनवरी 2026** से ही बढ़ेगी।
- But there is no time for **complacency**.  
लेकिन **आत्मसंतोष** के लिए कोई समय नहीं है।
- While India is far from being in a **persistent low-inflation, low-growth stagnation**, it is staring at a **growth slowdown**.  
जबकि भारत **लगातार कम मुद्रास्फीति और कम विकास ठहराव** की स्थिति से दूर है, यह एक **विकास मंदी** का सामना कर रहा है।
- The latest growth in the **Index of Industrial Production** was at a **10-month low**, with **capital and consumer goods activity** anaemic.  
**औद्योगिक उत्पादन सूचकांक** में हालिया वृद्धि **10 माह के निचले स्तर** पर थी, और **पूंजी व उपभोक्ता वस्तुओं की गतिविधि** कमजोर थी।
- Growth in **GST revenue** slowed to **single-digits** in **June and July**.  
**जून और जुलाई** में **GST राजस्व** की वृद्धि **एकल अंकों** में सिमट गई।
- The contraction in **gross direct tax collections** this financial year is also concerning.  
इस वित्तीय वर्ष में **सकल प्रत्यक्ष कर संग्रह** में गिरावट भी चिंताजनक है।
- Car sales to dealers dropped to an **18-month low** in **June**.  
**जून** में डीलरों को कार बिक्री **18 माह के निचले स्तर** पर आ गई।
- **UPI transactions**, touted in the past as a sign of buoyant economic activity, fell as compared to the previous month thrice so far in **2025**.  
**UPI लेनदेन**, जिसे पहले मजबूत आर्थिक गतिविधि का संकेत माना जाता था, **2025** में अब तक तीन बार पिछले महीने की तुलना में घटे।
- The **RBI** has retained its forecast of **6.5% growth** this financial year, which looks optimistic.  
**RBI** ने इस वित्तीय वर्ष के लिए **6.5% विकास** का अपना अनुमान बनाए रखा है, जो आशावादी लगता है।
- Even if the **U.S.'s additional 25% tariffs** are removed, the initial **25%** will themselves likely reduce India's growth by **0.2 percentage points**.  
भले ही **अमेरिका के अतिरिक्त 25% शुल्क** हटा दिए जाएं, प्रारंभिक **25%** ही भारत की वृद्धि को **0.2 प्रतिशत अंक** तक घटा सकते हैं।
- India's growth is not robust enough for it to be **blasé** about such a loss.  
भारत की वृद्धि इतनी मजबूत नहीं है कि वह ऐसे नुकसान को लेकर **बेपरवाह** रह सके।
- Structural problems remain, demand is still weak, and a temporary dip in **inflation** is in itself not going to help much.  
संरचनात्मक समस्याएं बनी हुई हैं, मांग अभी भी कमजोर है, और **मुद्रास्फीति** में अस्थायी गिरावट अपने आप में ज्यादा मददगार नहीं होगी।



## A war game-changer in a battle for influence in Asia

GS III: Defence

The world first noticed a massive shift in how wars are fought during the second Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (2020): the increasingly integral role that drones play. For India and Pakistan, Operation Sindoor (May 7-10) cemented this shift, as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) moved from serving purely reconnaissance needs to becoming instrumental for precision strikes.

### An exercise of modernisation

In the aftermath of the clashes, India is trying to upgrade and modernise its military. In 2024, India finalised an order for 31 MQ-9B Reapers from the United States, including SkyGuardian and SeaGuardian models. These aircraft will supplement India's need for maritime domain awareness and reinforce the strategic partnership between the countries. Still, this partially addresses just one of the needs of a country with its varied terrains and multiple contested borders. Given its vast border territories with Pakistan and China in high-altitude regions, India requires systems that are capable of high-altitude surveillance – larger fixed-wing long-range systems that can deliver significant payloads during precision strikes, and smaller, cost-effective systems for precision strikes.

Currently, the unmanned platforms that India has in operation address only some of these requirements. Israeli systems such as the relatively older Harop loitering munition and the medium-altitude long-range Heron are useful for aerial strikes and surveillance, respectively. But they are not the most advanced systems on the market. Apart from these, India largely operated legacy systems that were imported prior to the last decade and some indigenous models.

Despite the long defence relationship between the two countries, as India seeks to procure state-of-the-art drones, it no longer makes sense for it to look largely to the U.S. for outright



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With unmanned aerial vehicles becoming crucial for precision strikes, India can benefit from filling the space in the Indo-Pacific drone market

purchases. There is likely to be a shift where the U.S. becomes more important for components such as power plants and electronic payloads. Conversations about leading unmanned aerial systems invariably come back to the U.S., China, Türkiye, and Israel. However, recent reports question whether American drones are good enough even to meet their domestic demands, let alone dominate the export market.

A New York Times article, written by an observer of exercises with U.S. drone companies, revealed the growing gap between American systems and those made by Russia and China. Congruent with these concerns, the 'US Drone Dominance' executive order was rolled out with massive plans for American drone production. A CNAS report finds that the U.S.'s adherence to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) has resulted in it falling far behind China and Türkiye in the UAV export market, making up only 8% of the market as of the end of 2023. Although recent and upcoming reforms to the MTCR will allow the U.S. to tap into the export market more, it already lags behind.

Today, India finds itself trying to fill these gaps in its arsenal through imports, joint ventures and domestic production, largely relying on Israel and European countries. Given the state of its ties with both China and Türkiye at the moment, India is unlikely to rely on either country for critical defence technologies. As it attempts to further its own interests, India should also leverage its technological advancements to become a supplier of fixed-wing UAVs for the broader Indo-Pacific region.

### The China factor

A number of countries, including Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan have relations with China that can only be described as strained at best. Maritime Domain Awareness is essential for these countries to monitor and counter China's use of 'gray-zone' warfare, using

agents such as their coast guard and maritime militia, to enforce disputed territorial claims. This also enables them to protect their sovereignty and safeguard vital economic interests, such as fisheries and energy exploration, from constant encroachment.

Israel finds itself otherwise preoccupied with its long and drawn-out conflict in West Asia, and is unlikely to be a reliable supplier to the region. With the U.S. struggling to remain in the race, Türkiye is the primary option for procuring high-performance and cost-effective systems. Given that India and Türkiye find themselves in a fairly adversarial relationship, it is in India's interest to prevent Türkiye from expanding its sphere of influence through drone diplomacy.

Many countries in the Indo-Pacific also share similar geographies with India, and, consequently, a pressing need for systems tailored to maritime domain awareness and high-altitude border patrol. If India were to develop systems to suit its own needs, they would also suit the strategic requirements of its not-so-distant neighbours.

### A contested space

The U.S.-shaped vacuum in the drone market within the Indo-Pacific, is becoming a highly contested space that India would benefit from filling. Not only would it boost trade and influence with a host of countries but it would also fulfil the country's own strategic needs. Despite being held back by bureaucratic red tape and a public sector dominated defence sector, it would benefit India to capitalise on its existing ties with Israel and utilise its learnings from joint production ventures to better its domestic UAV ecosystem. Beyond just producing everything domestically, technology-sharing regimes with like-minded countries in the Indo-Pacific would further mutual interests and foster trust-based relationships in a region that is becoming increasingly polarised.

## A war game-changer in a battle for influence in Asia

## एशिया में प्रभाव की लड़ाई में एक युद्ध-परिवर्तक

### The Changing Role of Drones

### ड्रोन की बदलती भूमिका

- The world first noticed a massive shift in how wars are fought during the **second Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (2020)**: the increasingly integral role that **drones** play. दुनिया ने पहली बार यह देखा कि युद्ध लड़ने के तरीके में विशाल बदलाव आया है, दूसरे नागोर्नो-कराबाख संघर्ष (2020) के दौरान: जिसमें ड्रोन की भूमिका लगातार महत्वपूर्ण होती जा रही है।
- For **India and Pakistan, Operation Sindoor (May 7-10)** cemented this shift, as **unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)** and **unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs)** moved from serving purely reconnaissance needs to becoming instrumental for **precision strikes**. भारत और पाकिस्तान के लिए, ऑपरेशन सिंदूर (7-10 मई) ने इस बदलाव को मजबूत किया, क्योंकि अनमंड एरियल व्हीकल (UAVs) और अनमंड कॉम्बैट एरियल व्हीकल (UCAVs) केवल सर्वेक्षण की जरूरतों को पूरा करने से बढ़कर सटीक हमलों में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाने लगे।

### An Exercise of Modernisation

### आधुनिकीकरण का अभ्यास



- In the aftermath of the clashes, **India is trying to upgrade and modernise its military.**  
झड़पों के बाद, **भारत अपनी सेना को उन्नत और आधुनिक बनाने की कोशिश कर रहा है।**
- In **2024**, India finalized an order for **31 MQ-9B Reapers from the United States**, including **SkyGuardian and SeaGuardian models.**  
**2024** में, भारत ने **संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका से 31 MQ-9B रीपर्स** का ऑर्डर अंतिम रूप दिया, जिसमें **स्काईगार्डियन और सीगार्डियन मॉडल** शामिल हैं।
- These aircraft will supplement India's need for **maritime domain awareness** and reinforce the **strategic partnership** between the countries.  
ये विमान भारत की **समुद्री क्षेत्र जागरूकता** की जरूरत को पूरा करेंगे और देशों के बीच **रणनीतिक साझेदारी** को मजबूत करेंगे।
- Still, this partially addresses just one of the needs of a country with its **varied terrains and multiple contested borders.**  
फिर भी, यह केवल उस देश की एक जरूरत को आंशिक रूप से पूरा करता है, जिसका **विविध भूभाग और कई विवादित सीमाएं** हैं।
- Given its vast border territories with **Pakistan and China in high-altitude regions**, India requires systems capable of **high-altitude surveillance** — larger **fixed-wing long-range systems** that can deliver significant payloads during **precision strikes**, and smaller, **cost-effective systems** for precision strikes.  
पाकिस्तान और चीन के साथ **उच्च ऊंचाई वाले क्षेत्रों** में अपने विशाल सीमा क्षेत्रों को देखते हुए, भारत को **उच्च ऊंचाई वाले निगरानी सक्षम सिस्टम** की आवश्यकता है — बड़े **फिक्स्ड-विंग लंबी दूरी वाले सिस्टम** जो **सटीक हमलों** के दौरान महत्वपूर्ण पेलोड दे सकें, और छोटे, **लागत-कुशल सिस्टम** सटीक हमलों के लिए।
- Currently, the **unmanned platforms** that India has in operation address only some of these requirements.  
वर्तमान में, भारत के पास जो **अनमंड प्लेटफॉर्म** हैं, वे केवल इन आवश्यकताओं का कुछ हिस्सा ही पूरा करते हैं।
- Israeli systems such as the relatively older **Harop loitering munition** and the **medium-altitude long-range Heron** are useful for **aerial strikes and surveillance**, respectively.  
इसराइली सिस्टम जैसे कि अपेक्षाकृत पुराने **हारोप लूटरिंग म्यूनिशन** और **मध्यम ऊंचाई लंबी दूरी वाले हेरोन** क्रमशः **वायु हमलों और निगरानी** के लिए उपयोगी हैं।
- But they are not the most advanced systems on the market.  
लेकिन वे बाजार में सबसे उन्नत सिस्टम नहीं हैं।
- Apart from these, India largely operated **legacy systems** that were imported prior to the last decade and some **indigenous models.**  
इसके अलावा, भारत ने मुख्य रूप से **पुराने सिस्टम** संचालित किए जो पिछले दशक से पहले आयात किए गए थे और कुछ **स्वदेशी मॉडल**।
- Despite the long **defence relationship** between the two countries, as India seeks to procure **state-of-the-art drones**, it no longer makes sense for it to look largely to the **U.S. for outright purchases.**  
दोनों देशों के बीच लंबे **रक्षा संबंधों** के बावजूद, जब भारत **अत्याधुनिक ड्रोन** खरीदने की कोशिश कर रहा है, तो अब इसे मुख्य रूप से **सीधे खरीदारी के लिए अमेरिका** की ओर देखना समझदारी नहीं है।
- There is likely to be a shift where the **U.S. becomes more important for components** such as **power plants and electronic payloads.**  
ऐसा बदलाव होने की संभावना है, जिसमें **अमेरिका पावर प्लांट और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक पेलोड** जैसे घटकों के लिए अधिक महत्वपूर्ण बन जाएगा।
- Conversations about leading **unmanned aerial systems** invariably come back to the **U.S., China, Türkiye, and Israel.**



प्रमुख अनमंड एरियल सिस्टम पर चर्चाएँ हमेशा अमेरिका, चीन, तुर्की और इसराइल पर लौटती हैं।

- However, recent reports question whether **American drones are good enough** even to meet their **domestic demands**, let alone dominate the **export market**. हालांकि, हालिया रिपोर्टें सवाल उठाती हैं कि क्या **अमेरिकी ड्रोन पर्याप्त अच्छे हैं** यहां तक कि अपनी **घरेलू मांग** को पूरा करने के लिए, **निर्यात बाजार** पर हावी होने की बात तो छोड़ ही दें।
- A **New York Times** article, written by an observer of exercises with U.S. drone companies, revealed the **growing gap between American systems and those made by Russia and China**.  
न्यूयॉर्क टाइम्स का एक लेख, जो अमेरिकी ड्रोन कंपनियों के अभ्यास का पर्यवेक्षक था, ने **अमेरिकी सिस्टम और रूस और चीन द्वारा बनाए गए सिस्टम के बीच बढ़ते अंतर** को उजागर किया।
- Congruent with these concerns, the **'US Drone Dominance' executive order** was rolled out with **massive plans for American drone production**.  
इन चिंताओं के अनुरूप, **'यूएस ड्रोन डॉमिनेंस'** कार्यकारी आदेश बड़े पैमाने पर **अमेरिकी ड्रोन उत्पादन** की योजनाओं के साथ लागू किया गया।
- A **CNAS report** finds that the **U.S.'s adherence to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)** has resulted in it **falling far behind China and Türkiye** in the **UAV export market**, making up only **8% of the market** as of the end of **2023**.  
एक **CNAS रिपोर्ट** बताती है कि **मिसाइल टेक्नोलॉजी कंट्रोल रेज़ीम (MTCR)** के प्रति अमेरिकी पालन ने इसे **UAV निर्यात बाजार में चीन और तुर्की से बहुत पीछे गिरा दिया है**, जो **2023** के अंत तक केवल **8% बाजार** बनाता है।
- Although recent and upcoming reforms to the MTCR will allow the **U.S. to tap into the export market** more, it already lags behind.  
हालाँकि MTCR में हालिया और आने वाले सुधार **अमेरिका को निर्यात बाजार में अधिक प्रवेश करने** की अनुमति देंगे, यह पहले ही पीछे है।
- Today, **India finds itself trying to fill these gaps** in its arsenal through **imports, joint ventures and domestic production**, largely relying on **Israel and European countries**.  
आज, **भारत इन अंतरालों को भरने की कोशिश कर रहा है** अपने शस्त्रागार में **आयात, संयुक्त उद्यम और घरेलू उत्पादन** के माध्यम से, मुख्य रूप से **इसराइल और यूरोपीय देशों** पर निर्भर है।
- Given the state of its ties with both **China and Türkiye** at the moment, India is unlikely to rely on either country for **critical defence technologies**.  
वर्तमान में **चीन और तुर्की** के साथ अपने संबंधों की स्थिति को देखते हुए, भारत संभावना नहीं है कि किसी भी देश पर **महत्वपूर्ण रक्षा तकनीक** के लिए निर्भर हो।
- As it attempts to further its own interests, India should also leverage its **technological advancements** to become a **supplier of fixed-wing UAVs** for the broader **Indo-Pacific region**.  
अपनी स्वयं की रुचियों को आगे बढ़ाने के प्रयास में, भारत को अपने **प्रौद्योगिकीगत विकास** का उपयोग करना चाहिए ताकि वह व्यापक **इंडो-पैसिफिक क्षेत्र** के लिए **फिक्सड-विंग UAVs** का आपूर्तिकर्ता बन सके।



## Ration at your doorstep

Schemes such as **Thayumanavar Thittam** are crucial in providing food security

GS III: Public Distribution System

### STATE OF PLAY

**T. Ramakrishnan**  
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On August 12, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin launched **Thayumanavar Thittam**, a scheme to provide ration products at the doorsteps of senior citizens and persons with disabilities. This scheme, which when translated means 'one who shows motherly affection', is not new for Tamil Nadu, conceptually or in practice. But what makes it different from similar schemes implemented in the past is its reach. **Thayumanavar Thittam**, at a cost of ₹30.16 crore, is set to benefit about 20.4 lakh senior citizens and 1.3 lakh persons with disabilities across the State. In early July, the authorities conducted a trial run of the scheme in 10 districts, including Chennai.

Tamil Nadu is perhaps the only State to follow a universal public distribution system (PDS) instead of a targeted PDS. Unlike in many other States, where licences are issued to private dealers to run fair price shops, cooperative societies in Tamil Nadu manage the affairs of nearly 95% of the shops (as against the national average of over 20%). Of about 37,330 shops in the southern State, more than 35,000 shops are handled by cooperative societies.

Tamil Nadu has also established 2,495 mobile fair price shops to ensure access to essential commodities for people in remote, hilly, and geographically challenging areas. Five years ago, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the then AIADMK regime also opened seven such shops and named them after former Chief Minis-



ter Jayalalithaa.

Other States have been implementing schemes similar to **Thayumanavar Thittam** for some time. Under the Oppom scheme in Kerala, auto rickshaw drivers deliver essential commodities at the doorsteps of people who cannot visit PDS shops to collect their supplies due to old age, illnesses, or other issues. In Karnataka, the Anna Suvidha scheme benefits those aged over 75. Punjab is also implementing its own variant of the concept.

In Delhi and Andhra Pradesh, the execution of similar schemes ran into problems. The scheme in Delhi never took off when the Aam Aadmi Party was in power. In Andhra Pradesh, regime change proved to be the obstacle: the Telugu Desam Party-led government reversed the previous YSR Congress Party government's practice of supplying essential commodities through mobile dispensing units for all beneficiaries. In the revised scheme, door delivery of commodities has been restricted to about 16 lakh PDS beneficiaries who are aged above 65 years or are physically challenged.

Nevertheless, the idea has clearly been gaining currency. This is why it is strange that the Union government told the Lok Sabha early this month that "there is no provision under the [National Food Security] Act for delivery of foodgrains at the doorstep of

beneficiaries." What should have been stated is that Section 32 (1) of the Act says that the law does "not preclude the Central government or the State government from continuing or formulating other food-based welfare schemes."

The DMK regime's initiative was appreciated by Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) general secretary Premalatha Vijayakant, who is not an ally of the ruling party. Describing the launch of the scheme as a "victory" for DMK founder Vijayakant and the party, she recalled how Vijayakant had promised electors during the 2006 Assembly polls that his party would deliver commodities to beneficiaries if brought to power. His idea had been ridiculed then, she said. The DMDK general secretary was, however, guarded about her party's position on forming an alliance with the DMK for the 2026 Assembly elections and clarified that the decision would be taken at the party's meet in Cuddalore in January.

Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) general secretary T.T.V. Dhinakaran criticised the scheme, contending that it had been implemented keeping the Assembly elections in mind. He also reminded the government that it had not implemented the DMK's electoral promise of increasing the quantity of sugar and including urad dal once again under the PDS.

Notwithstanding the criticism, Mr. Stalin seems to be conscious of the fact that it is officials in charge who determine the success of any scheme. This was evident when he pointedly sought their cooperation. Without the right approach from them, schemes such as this may fail to ensure food security to lakhs of beneficiaries.

## Ration at your doorstep

### आपके दरवाजे पर राशन

• Schemes such as **Thayumanavar Thittam** are crucial in providing food security.

थायुमानावर तित्तम जैसी योजनाएँ खाद्य सुरक्षा प्रदान करने में महत्वपूर्ण हैं।

### Thayumanavar Thittam थायुमानावर तित्तम

• On August 12, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister **M.K. Stalin** launched **Thayumanavar Thittam**, a scheme to provide ration products at the doorsteps of senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

12 अगस्त को तमिलनाडु के मुख्यमंत्री एम.के. स्टालिन ने थायुमानावर तित्तम योजना की शुरुआत की, जो वरिष्ठ नागरिकों और विकलांग व्यक्तियों के दरवाजे पर राशन उत्पाद पहुंचाने की योजना है।

• This scheme, which when translated means 'one who shows motherly affection', is not new for Tamil Nadu, conceptually or in practice.

यह योजना, जिसका अनुवाद 'मातृसुलभ स्नेह दिखाने वाला' होता है, तमिलनाडु के लिए अवधारणा या व्यवहार में नई नहीं है।

• But what makes it different from similar schemes implemented in the past is its reach.

लेकिन इसे अतीत में लागू समान

योजनाओं से अलग करने वाली बात इसकी पहुंच है।

• **Thayumanavar Thittam**, at a cost of ₹30.16 crore, is set to benefit about 20.4 lakh senior citizens and 1.3 lakh persons with disabilities across the State.

₹30.16 करोड़ की लागत वाली थायुमानावर तित्तम योजना पूरे राज्य में लगभग 20.4 लाख वरिष्ठ नागरिकों और 1.3 लाख विकलांग व्यक्तियों को लाभ पहुंचाएगी।



- In early **July**, the authorities conducted a trial run of the scheme in **10 districts**, including **Chennai**.  
जुलाई की शुरुआत में, अधिकारियों ने चेन्नई सहित 10 जिलों में योजना का परीक्षण चलाया।
- Tamil Nadu is perhaps the only State to follow a **universal public distribution system (PDS)** instead of a targeted PDS.  
तमिलनाडु शायद एकमात्र राज्य है जो **लक्षित पीडीएस** के बजाय **सार्वभौमिक सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली (PDS)** अपनाता है।
- Unlike in many other States, where licences are issued to private dealers to run **fair price shops, cooperative societies** in Tamil Nadu manage the affairs of nearly **95%** of the shops (as against the national average of over **20%**).  
कई अन्य राज्यों के विपरीत, जहां **उचित मूल्य की दुकानों** को चलाने के लिए निजी डीलरों को लाइसेंस जारी किए जाते हैं, तमिलनाडु में **सहकारी समितियां** लगभग **95%** दुकानों का प्रबंधन करती हैं (राष्ट्रीय औसत **20%** से अधिक के मुकाबले)।
- Of about **37,330** shops in the southern State, more than **35,000** shops are handled by cooperative societies.  
दक्षिणी राज्य में लगभग **37,330** दुकानों में से, **35,000** से अधिक दुकानें सहकारी समितियों द्वारा संचालित की जाती हैं।
- Tamil Nadu has also established **2,495 mobile fair price shops** to ensure access to essential commodities for people in **remote, hilly**, and geographically challenging areas.  
तमिलनाडु ने **दूरस्थ, पहाड़ी** और भौगोलिक रूप से चुनौतीपूर्ण क्षेत्रों में आवश्यक वस्तुओं की पहुंच सुनिश्चित करने के लिए **2,495 मोबाइल उचित मूल्य की दुकानें** भी स्थापित की हैं।
- Five years ago, during the **COVID-19 pandemic**, the then AIADMK regime also opened seven such shops and named them after former Chief Minister **Jayalalithaa**.  
**5 साल पहले, कोविड-19 महामारी** के दौरान, तत्कालीन AIADMK सरकार ने ऐसी सात दुकानें खोलीं और उनका नाम पूर्व मुख्यमंत्री **जयललिता** के नाम पर रखा।
- Other States have been implementing schemes similar to **Thayumanavar Thittam** for some time.  
अन्य राज्य कुछ समय से **थायुमानावर तित्तम** जैसी योजनाएं लागू कर रहे हैं।
- Under the **Oppom scheme** in **Kerala**, **auto rickshaw drivers** deliver essential commodities at the doorsteps of people who cannot visit PDS shops due to **old age, illnesses**, or other issues.  
**केरल में ओप्पोम योजना** के तहत, **ऑटो रिक्शा चालक** उन लोगों के दरवाजे पर आवश्यक वस्तुएं पहुंचाते हैं जो **बुढ़ापे, बीमारियों** या अन्य कारणों से पीडीएस दुकानों पर नहीं जा सकते।
- In **Karnataka**, the **Anna Suvidha scheme** benefits those aged over **75**.  
**कर्नाटक में अन्ना सुविधा योजना** का लाभ **75** वर्ष से अधिक आयु वालों को मिलता है।
- **Punjab** is also implementing its own variant of the concept.  
**पंजाब** भी इस अवधारणा का अपना संस्करण लागू कर रहा है।
- In **Delhi** and **Andhra Pradesh**, the execution of similar schemes ran into problems.  
**दिल्ली** और **आंध्र प्रदेश** में समान योजनाओं के क्रियान्वयन में समस्याएं आईं।
- The scheme in **Delhi** never took off when the **Aam Aadmi Party** was in power.  
**दिल्ली** में यह योजना तब शुरू ही नहीं हो पाई जब **आम आदमी पार्टी** सत्ता में थी।
- In **Andhra Pradesh**, **regime change** proved to be the obstacle: the **Telugu Desam Party-led government** reversed the previous **YSR Congress Party government's** practice of supplying essential commodities through **mobile dispensing units** for all beneficiaries.  
**आंध्र प्रदेश** में, **सत्ता परिवर्तन** बाधा साबित हुआ: **तेलुगु देशम पार्टी** के नेतृत्व वाली सरकार ने सभी लाभार्थियों को **मोबाइल वितरण इकाइयों** के माध्यम से आवश्यक वस्तुएं उपलब्ध कराने की पिछली **वाईएसआर कांग्रेस पार्टी** सरकार की प्रथा को उलट दिया।
- In the revised scheme, door delivery of commodities has been restricted to about **16 lakh PDS beneficiaries** who are aged above **65 years** or are **physically**



challenged.

संशोधित योजना में, वस्तुओं की दरवाजे पर डिलीवरी केवल लगभग 16 लाख पीडीएस लाभार्थियों तक सीमित कर दी गई है, जो 65 वर्ष से अधिक आयु के हैं या शारीरिक रूप से विकलांग हैं।

### Reception and Criticism of Thayumanavar Thittam

#### थायुमानावर तित्तम की प्रतिक्रिया और आलोचना

- Nevertheless, the idea has clearly been **gaining currency**.  
फिर भी, इस विचार की स्पष्ट रूप से **स्वीकृति बढ़ रही है**।
- This is why it is strange that the **Union government** told the **Lok Sabha** early this month that “there is no provision under the [National Food Security] Act for delivery of foodgrains at the doorstep of beneficiaries.”  
यही कारण है कि यह अजीब है कि इस महीने की शुरुआत में **केंद्र सरकार** ने **लोकसभा** को बताया कि “**राष्ट्रीय खाद्य सुरक्षा अधिनियम** के तहत लाभार्थियों के दरवाजे पर अनाज पहुंचाने की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है।
- What should have been stated is that Section 32 (1) of the Act says that the law does “not preclude the Central government or the State government from continuing or formulating other food-based welfare schemes.”  
जो कहना चाहिए था, वह यह है कि अधिनियम की **धारा 32 (1)** कहती है कि कानून “**केंद्र सरकार या राज्य सरकार को अन्य खाद्य-आधारित कल्याण योजनाओं को जारी रखने या तैयार करने से रोकता नहीं है।**”
- The **DMK regime’s initiative** was appreciated by **Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK)** general secretary **Premalatha Vijayakant**, who is not an ally of the ruling party.  
**डीएमके सरकार** की पहल की सराहना **देशीय मुरपोक्कु द्रविड़ कड़गम (DMDK)** की महासचिव **प्रेमलता विजयकांत** ने की, जो सत्ता पक्ष की सहयोगी नहीं हैं।
- Describing the launch of the scheme as a “victory” for DMDK founder **Vijayakant** and the party, she recalled how Vijayakant had promised electors during the **2006 Assembly polls** that his party would deliver commodities to beneficiaries if brought to power.  
योजना की शुरुआत को DMDK संस्थापक **विजयकांत** और पार्टी के लिए “**विजय**” बताते हुए, उन्होंने याद किया कि **2006 विधानसभा चुनावों** के दौरान विजयकांत ने मतदाताओं से वादा किया था कि उनकी पार्टी सत्ता में आने पर लाभार्थियों को वस्तुएं पहुंचाएगी।
- His idea had been **ridiculed** then, she said.  
उनका विचार तब **मजाक उड़ाया गया** था, उन्होंने कहा।
- The DMDK general secretary was, however, **guarded** about her party’s position on forming an **alliance with the DMK** for the **2026 Assembly elections** and clarified that the decision would be taken at the party’s meet in **Cuddalore in January**.  
DMDK महासचिव ने, हालांकि, **सावधानी** बरती और स्पष्ट किया कि **2026 विधानसभा चुनावों** के लिए **डीएमके के साथ गठबंधन** पर पार्टी का निर्णय जनवरी में **कडलोर** में पार्टी बैठक में लिया जाएगा।
- **Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK)** general secretary **T.T.V. Dhinakaran** criticised the scheme, contending that it had been implemented keeping the **Assembly elections** in mind.  
**अम्मा मक्कल मुननेत्रा कड़गम (AMMK)** की महासचिव **टी.टी.वी. धिनाकरन** ने इस योजना की आलोचना की, यह कहते हुए कि इसे **विधानसभा चुनावों** को ध्यान में रखकर लागू किया गया है।
- He also reminded the government that it had not implemented the DMK’s electoral promise of increasing the quantity of **sugar** and including **urad dal** once again under the PDS.  
उन्होंने सरकार को यह भी याद दिलाया कि उसने DMK के चुनावी वादे को लागू नहीं किया है, जिसमें **चीनी** की मात्रा बढ़ाना और PDS में **उड़द दाल** को फिर से शामिल करना शामिल था।



- Notwithstanding the criticism, Mr. Stalin seems to be conscious of the fact that it is **officials in charge** who determine the **success of any scheme**.  
आलोचना के बावजूद, श्री स्टालिन इस तथ्य से सचेत प्रतीत होते हैं कि किसी भी योजना की सफलता का निर्धारण प्रभारी अधिकारी करते हैं।
- This was evident when he pointedly sought their **cooperation**.  
यह स्पष्ट हुआ जब उन्होंने विशेष रूप से उनकी सहयोग की मांग की।
- Without the right approach from them, schemes such as this may **fail to ensure food security to lakhs of beneficiaries**.  
उनके उचित दृष्टिकोण के बिना, ऐसी योजनाएं लाखों लाभार्थियों के लिए खाद्य सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करने में विफल हो सकती हैं।

## U.S., not India, is 'tariff king', says Amul MD

'While India maintained a uniform 30% import duty on all dairy items, the U.S. imposed a steeper 40-75% on products like ghee, butter, cheese'

[GS III: External Sector](#)

**Abhinav Deshpande**  
ANAND

**T**he United States is the real 'tariff king', at least in the dairy business, despite U.S. President Donald Trump labelling India as one, said Jayen Mehta, MD of the Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd. (GCMMF), which markets the Amul brand.

Mr. Mehta added that the new U.S. tariffs would not affect Amul's overseas sales, as demand from the Indian diaspora and even locals remained strong.

In a freewheeling conversation with *The Hindu* in Gujarat's Anand, the brand's headquarters, Mr. Mehta said that while India maintained a uniform 30% import duty on all dairy products, the U.S. imposed much steeper tariffs ranging from 40-75% on items like ghee, butter, cheese, flavoured milk, cream, and shrikhand.

"Amul has been exporting to the U.S. since 1998. Unlike India, the U.S. imposes varying import duties on different dairy products. But, unfortunately, we are projected as a high-duty country, whereas the actual tariff king is the United States, at least in the dairy business," he said.

"Before August 1, the U.S. charged nearly 50% import duty on ghee and butter, 40% on cheese, 61% on flavoured milk products, 40% on cream, and



**Dairy diary:** The new tariffs won't affect Amul's overseas sales as demand from Indian diaspora and locals is strong, says Mehta. PTI

75% on shrikhand," he said. He said milk was the "largest agricultural crop in India," with over 10 crore families dependent on it for their livelihood, and that the value of milk output in the country exceeded that of wheat, paddy, and oilseeds combined.

When asked about the U.S. market's response to Amul milk, introduced in May last year, Mr. Mehta said that in addition to the Indian diaspora, the mainstream market had also accepted the product, and now the milk was being sold in more than 35 States in the U.S.

"And it's not just Indian grocery stores buying it; even mainstream retailers like Costco are also stocking it. For the first time in history, the U.S. is consuming 6% fat milk [compared with the usual 3%]."

Mr. Mehta said that Amul is present in 40 countries and had entered

Portugal and Spain in June, and by the end of August, or latest by September, it would be in Switzerland, Germany, and France.

"Historically, we have not had a presence in Europe, so this marks our first entry into the continent."

"We have four major foreign markets: the Middle East, with an office in Dubai; South-East Asia; Japan, where our business is growing significantly; and of course, the United States," he said.

Asked whether there was any possibility of an IPO, Mr. Mehta said it would never happen.

"As a cooperative, our purpose is the opposite of what drives listed companies.... We're owned by farmers, so we have to keep them happy as they are our shareholders. If we went public, the pressure would be to show higher profits," he added.

## U.S., not India, is 'tariff king', says Amul MD अमेरिका, भारत नहीं, है 'टैरिफ किंग', अमूल एमडी का कहना है

- The United States is the real 'tariff king', at least in the dairy business, despite U.S. President Donald Trump labelling India as one, said Jayen Mehta, MD of the Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation Ltd. (GCMMF), which markets the Amul brand.

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका असली 'टैरिफ किंग' है, कम से कम डेयरी व्यवसाय में, जबकि अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने भारत को ऐसा कहा था, ऐसा कहना है जयेन मेहता, एमडी गुजरात को-ऑपरेटिव मिल्क मार्केटिंग फेडरेशन लिमिटेड (GCMMF) का, जो अमूल ब्रांड का विपणन करता है।

- Mr. Mehta added that the new U.S. tariffs would not affect Amul's overseas sales, as demand from the Indian diaspora and even locals remained strong.

श्री मेहता ने कहा कि नए अमेरिकी टैरिफ अमूल की विदेशों में बिक्री को प्रभावित नहीं करेंगे, क्योंकि भारतीय प्रवासी समुदाय और यहां तक कि स्थानीय लोगों की मांग मजबूत बनी हुई है

- In a freewheeling conversation with *The Hindu* in Gujarat's Anand, the brand's headquarters, Mr. Mehta said



that while India maintained a uniform 30% import duty on all dairy products, the U.S. imposed much steeper tariffs ranging from 40-75% on items like ghee, butter, cheese, flavoured milk, cream, and shrikhand.

गुजरात के आणंद में ब्रांड के मुख्यालय में द हिंदू से बातचीत में श्री मेहता ने कहा कि जहां भारत सभी डेयरी उत्पादों पर 30% समान आयात शुल्क बनाए रखता है, वहीं अमेरिका ने घी, मक्खन, पनीर, प्लेवर्ड मिल्क, क्रीम और श्रीखंड जैसे उत्पादों पर 40% से 75% तक अधिक टैरिफ लगाए हैं।

- “Amul has been exporting to the U.S. since 1998. Unlike India, the U.S. imposes varying import duties on different dairy products. But, unfortunately, we are projected as a high-duty country, whereas the actual tariff king is the United States, at least in the dairy business,” he said.

“अमूल 1998 से अमेरिका को निर्यात कर रहा है। भारत के विपरीत, अमेरिका विभिन्न डेयरी उत्पादों पर अलग-अलग आयात शुल्क लगाता है। लेकिन, दुर्भाग्य से, हमें उच्च-शुल्क वाला देश बताया जाता है, जबकि असली टैरिफ किंग अमेरिका है, कम से कम डेयरी व्यवसाय में,” उन्होंने कहा।

- “Before August 1, the U.S. charged nearly 50% import duty on ghee and butter, 40% on cheese, 61% on flavoured milk products, 40% on cream, and 75% on shrikhand,” he said.

“1 अगस्त से पहले, अमेरिका घी और मक्खन पर लगभग 50% आयात शुल्क, पनीर पर 40%, प्लेवर्ड मिल्क उत्पादों पर 61%, क्रीम पर 40%, और श्रीखंड पर 75% शुल्क लेता था,” उन्होंने कहा।

- He said milk was the “largest agricultural crop in India,” with over 10 crore families dependent on it for their livelihood, and that the value of milk output in the country exceeded that of wheat, paddy, and oilseeds combined.

उन्होंने कहा कि दूध “भारत में सबसे बड़ी कृषि फसल” है, जिस पर 10 करोड़ से अधिक परिवार अपनी आजीविका के लिए निर्भर हैं, और देश में दूध उत्पादन का मूल्य गेहूं, धान और तिलहन के संयुक्त मूल्य से भी अधिक है

- When asked about the U.S. market’s response to Amul milk, introduced in May last year, Mr. Mehta said that in addition to the Indian diaspora, the mainstream market had also accepted the product, and now the milk was being sold in more than 35 States in the U.S.

जब अमूल दूध को पिछले साल मई में पेश करने के बाद अमेरिकी बाजार की प्रतिक्रिया के बारे में पूछा गया, तो श्री मेहता ने कहा कि भारतीय प्रवासी समुदाय के अलावा मुख्यधारा के बाजार ने भी इस उत्पाद को स्वीकार कर लिया है, और अब यह दूध अमेरिका के 35 से अधिक राज्यों में बेचा जा रहा है।

- “And it’s not just Indian grocery stores buying it; even mainstream retailers like Costco are also stocking it. For the first time in history, the U.S. is consuming 6% fat milk [compared with the usual 3%].”

“और केवल भारतीय किराना स्टोर ही इसे नहीं खरीद रहे; बल्कि कॉस्टको जैसे मुख्यधारा के रिटेलर्स भी इसे स्टॉक कर रहे हैं। इतिहास में पहली बार, अमेरिका 6% वसा वाला दूध पी रहा है [जबकि आमतौर पर 3% वसा वाला होता है]।

- Mr. Mehta said that Amul is present in 40 countries and had entered Portugal and Spain in June, and by the end of August, or latest by September, it would be in Switzerland, Germany, and France.

श्री मेहता ने कहा कि अमूल 40 देशों में मौजूद है और उसने जून में पुर्तगाल और स्पेन में प्रवेश किया था, और अगस्त के अंत तक या अधिकतम सितंबर तक यह स्विट्जरलैंड, जर्मनी और फ्रांस में भी होगा।

- “Historically, we have not had a presence in Europe, so this marks our first entry into the continent.”

“ऐतिहासिक रूप से, हमारी यूरोप में उपस्थिति नहीं रही है, इसलिए यह महाद्वीप में हमारा पहला प्रवेश है।”

- “We have four major foreign markets: the Middle East, with an office in Dubai; South-East Asia; Japan, where our business is growing significantly; and of course,



the United States,” he said.

“हमारे चार प्रमुख विदेशी बाजार हैं: मध्य पूर्व, जिसमें दुबई में एक कार्यालय है; दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया; जापान, जहां हमारा व्यवसाय तेजी से बढ़ रहा है; और निश्चित रूप से, संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका,” उन्होंने कहा।

- Asked whether there was any possibility of an IPO, Mr. Mehta said it would never happen.  
जब यह पूछा गया कि आईपीओ की कोई संभावना है, तो श्री मेहता ने कहा कि यह कभी नहीं होगा।
- “As a cooperative, our purpose is the opposite of what drives listed companies.... We’re owned by farmers, so we have to keep them happy as they are our shareholders. If we went public, the pressure would be to show higher profits,” he added.  
“एक सहकारी संस्था के रूप में, हमारा उद्देश्य सूचीबद्ध कंपनियों को प्रेरित करने वाले कारणों के विपरीत है... हम किसानों के स्वामित्व में हैं, इसलिए हमें उन्हें खुश रखना है क्योंकि वे हमारे शेयरधारक हैं। अगर हम पब्लिक हो गए, तो दबाव अधिक मुनाफा दिखाने का होगा,” उन्होंने जोड़ा।

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